

# Exploring public's perceptions of the process of using COVID-19 immunity certificates

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## Introduction

### Information Section

**Welcome and thank you for considering taking part in this online survey.**

Before you decide we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please direct any queries you have on the contents of the survey to Ms Corina Niculaescu (Research Assistant), Department of Computer Science, Brunel University, London, Uxbridge UB8 3PH, [corina.niculaescu@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:corina.niculaescu@brunel.ac.uk)

The purpose of this study is to gain information relating to the use of COVID-19 immunity certificates, also known as immunity passports. In this survey the term “immunity certificate” refers to a type of certification (digital or paper) showing that an individual has developed antibodies of SARS-COV-2 either through past infection or after completing a full course of vaccination. To date many countries have put in place services that allow people to prove their immunity status against COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2). Such services would allow individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies (acquired through vaccination or prior infection) to travel or socialise without restrictions. The study aims to examine the public's perceptions on using immunity certificates.

This study is part of a UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded research project led by Loughborough University in partnership with Brunel University London. The study will be undertaken by Dr Isabel Sassoon (Brunel), Ms Corina Niculaescu (Brunel) and Dr Panagiotis Balatsoukas (Loughborough University).

You will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey, which should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. Because this survey explores the public's perceptions about the use of immunity certificates you should have completed a full course of

vaccination or developed antibodies through past infection to be eligible to participate in the survey. Also, you must be over the age of 18 and have the capacity to fully understand and consent to the research. You do not need to do anything before completing the survey. This is a low-risk activity and no disadvantages or risks have been identified in association with participating.

Please note that ethics approval for this survey has been obtained from the College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences Research Committee at Brunel University London, approved by Chair of the Research Ethics Committee Professor Simon Taylor. Brunel University London will be using information/data from you to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that the University is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. No identifiable personal information will be collected and so your participation in the study will be confidential. The anonymous data will be used in academic publications and presentations, project reports and open access research data repositories freely available to everyone. No individual will be identifiable in any report, presentation, research datasets or publications. All information will be securely stored on the University computer systems. Anonymised data will be retained for an unlimited amount of time so that they can be reused by other researchers in the future.

Please note that we are requested by [Prolific.co](https://prolific.co) to record your unique prolific ID. This information is recorded for quality purposes and specifically to enable us to reject poor quality submissions. Prolific IDs will not be used in the analysis of the data, will not be published or appear in any published anonymous datasets and will be deleted immediately after the end of the data collection process, which is expected to happen as soon as we reach the target sample size for this study as this has been specified in the [Prolific.co](https://prolific.co) study details.

After you have read this information and asked any questions you may have, if you are happy to participate, please read the consent page and confirm your consent by checking the tick box at the bottom of the page. You can withdraw from the survey at any time by closing the browser. However, as the survey is anonymous once you have submitted the survey it will not be possible to withdraw your data from the study.

### **What if I am not happy with how the research was conducted?**

If you are not happy with how the research was conducted, please contact the Chair of the College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences Research Ethics Committee at Brunel University London. Tel: +44 (0)1895 265994. Email: [simon.taylor@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:simon.taylor@brunel.ac.uk)

## Informed Consent

The purpose and details of this study have been explained to me.

I understand that this study is designed to further scientific knowledge and that all procedures have received a favourable decision from the Brunel University London College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

I have read and understood the contents of the information section and this consent form.

I have had an opportunity to ask questions about my participation.

I understand that taking part in the survey is anonymous.

I understand that this questionnaire includes questions about personal beliefs and experiences with COVID-19.

I understand that I am under no obligation to take part in the study and can withdraw during the survey by closing the browser but will not be able to withdraw once my responses have been submitted.

I understand that information I provide will be used in academic publications and presentations, project reports and anonymous research datasets.

I voluntarily agree to take part in this study. \* *Required*

☐ Click if you wish to proceed

# Socio-demographics

Please insert your Prolific ID: \* *Required*

What is your age? \* *Required*

- ☐ 18 – 23
- ☐ 24 – 29
- ☐ 30 – 39
- ☐ 40 – 49
- ☐ 50 – 59
- ☐ 60 – 69
- ☐ 70 or older

What is your gender? \* *Required*

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Self-define
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you selected Other, please specify:

Please indicate your ethnicity. \* *Required*

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ South Asian
- ☐ Mixed
- ☐ Other

Are you a parent or the legal guardian of a child or children between the ages of 13 and 17?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you consider yourself to be at high risk from developing complications from COVID-19 due to an underlying health condition?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

In this survey the term “immunity certificate” refers to a type of certification (digital or paper) showing that an individual has developed antibodies of SARS-COV-2 either through past infection or after completing a full course of vaccination.

At the moment, how would you best describe you immunity status from COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)? \* *Required*

- ☐ Fully vaccinated (full course of vaccination with or without the booster)
- ☐ Previous infection (natural immunity)
- ☐ First dose of vaccine and previous infection
- ☐ First dose of vaccine, no previous infection
- ☐ Not vaccinated nor had previous infection

## Experience with immunity certificates

Do you have any prior experience using immunity certificates?

☐ Yes

☐ No

# Experience with Immunity Certificates

For which of the following purposes have you used immunity certificates? (you may only choose one option)

- ☐ Domestic use (e.g. theatre, nightclub etc.)
- ☐ Travel (e.g. international travel)
- ☐ Both



## Type of certificate

Which type of immunity certificate format have you used before? (you may only choose one option)

- ☐ Mobile based (e.g. NHS app, email confirmation)
- ☐ Paper based (e.g. NHS letter)
- ☐ Both

## Using mobile phone to prove immunity status

Would you consider using you mobile phone to show proof of your immunity status if asked to?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Undecided

# Paper based certificate

I chose to use paper-based format because:

- ☐ I do not own a mobile phone
- ☐ I do not know how to use a mobile phone
- ☐ I do not know how to access my immunity certificate using a phone
- ☐ None of the above. I prefer the paper-based but I would be able to use the mobile-based if I did not have another option

# Your concerns about the use of mobile phones

Please indicate how concerned are you about the following issues when making a decision about whether to use a mobile phone to show proof of your immunity status for international travel or domestic use (e.g. going to a theatre or nightclub).

|   | <i>* Required</i>     |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|   | Not at all concerned  | Slightly concerned    | Somewhat concerned    | Moderately concerned  | Extremely concerned   |
| Longer waiting time and queues outside the venue. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mobile phone signal.                              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mobile data availability.                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Phone battery.                                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Safety of personal data.                          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

# Lifestyle

Before any lockdown restrictions were introduced in March 2020, how often did you engage in any of the following activities?

|   | <i>* Required</i>     |                       |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|   | Very often            | Sometimes             | Rarely                | Never                 |
| Going to the theatre, cinema, music hall                            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Attend sports events  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Please tick "Rarely"  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Going to nightclubs   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Going to a pub, restaurant, club or coffee shop for a meal or drink | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Travel internationally  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

# Your perceptions on the certification process

How would you assess your level of confidence in completing the following tasks if asked to?

|  | * Required            |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | Not confident at all  | Not very confident    | Neither               | Fairly confident      | Very confident        |
| Locate information about the regulations and processes in place that are specific to my immunity status.         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Understand information about the regulations and processes in place that are specific to my immunity status.     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Locate information about the accepted types of certificates that can be used as proof of my immunity status.     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Understand information about the accepted types of certificates that can be used as proof of my immunity status. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Locate information about how personal information about my immunity status will be used.                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Understand information about how personal information about my immunity status will be used.                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Determine who to contact in case I have questions about immunity certificates.                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

|   |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Access my immunity status using the NHS app or the NHS website.               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Please tick "Not very confident".   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Download a copy of my immunity status through the NHS app or the NHS website. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Order a paper-based certificate of my immunity status.                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Use my mobile phone to show proof of my immunity status to others.            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Use a paper-based certificate to show proof of immunity status to others.     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

# Your perceptions on operational issues around immunity certificates

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

|  | * Required            |                       |                            |                       |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | Strongly disagree     | Somewhat disagree     | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat agree        | Strongly agree        |
| Anonymous feedback should be sought from the public about their experiences of using immunity certificates (for example after international travel or after taking part in a social activity like going to theatre). | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The use of immunity certificates should become mandatory for domestic use (including all sports events and other social events that take place indoors, like going to a theatre or a nightclub).                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Where proof of immunity is mandatory, individuals should not be asked to use face masks or follow the 2-meter distance rule.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |



People who attended a domestic indoors event (e.g. a play in a theatre) should be asked to take a lateral flow test (LFT) 2 days after the event even if they showed proof of immunity prior to entering the venue.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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## Final page

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey. Please click on the Prolific link on the next page, so that we can record the completion of your responses.

# Final page

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.

Please click on the following Prolific link, so that we can record the completion of your responses: <https://app.prolific.co/submissions/complete?cc=2433B97E>

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