



RÉPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE

Ministère de l'Économie Numérique
et de la Transformation Digitale



AFRICAN UNION

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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The African Union and the Government of the Republic of Togo today announced the successful deployment of the harmonized African Union Vaccine Pass standard (Trusted Vaccines) and COVID-19 Testing Certificate standard (Trusted Travel) in Togo. The deployment was undertaken with support from the PanaBIOS Consortium. Whilst many African countries are deploying the Trusted Vaccines solution and several more have launched Trusted Travel in recent months, Togo becomes the first country to offer a continental vaccine pass and testing certificate to its citizens, thus considerably improving their ability to benefit from the free movement provisions enshrined in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement.

Lomé (Togo), 25 November 2021 – To ease restrictions on COVID-19 and prepare for the imminent reopening of their borders and economies, African states under the aegis of the African Union draw on innovative technologies. Indeed, the African Union has rolled out its Trusted Vaccines and Trusted Travel platforms to foster harmonisation of vaccine records and test results verification across the continent.

Today, many countries around the world rely on insecure visual inspection of health documents due to the absence of a reliable international mechanism for authenticity assurance. This greatly threatens global biosecurity. Against this background, the Republic of Togo is proud to announce the successful integration of its national digital COVID-19 testing and vaccination system with the one developed by the African Union and the Africa Center for Disease Control & Prevention, entirely in line with the harmonised continental standards of Trusted Vaccines and Trusted Travel.

Whilst many African Countries have deployed the Trusted Travel standard for COVID-19 testing verification and are deploying the Trusted Vaccines system for authentication of vaccine records on the continental level, Togo's success in integrating both systems simultaneously today marks a major milestone.

Togo's pioneering role in Trusted Vaccines is all the more justified as the Togolese Government has established an efficient vaccination strategy, positioning Togo as one of the countries with the highest vaccination rate in the sub-region. Today, more than one million

people (representing 25% of the target population in Togo), have already registered on the digital platform set up by the country at the launch of the vaccination campaign, with the aim to enroll and monitor vaccinated people.

Togo has also fully digitised all elements of its vaccination plan. Its platform, entirely developed in Togo, enables the issuance of a digital COVID-19 vaccination certificate with a QR code to people who have received the required minimum number of doses. As this digital solution meets international norms and standards, the Togolese Government established reciprocity with the African Union system of digital COVID-19 vaccination certificates and, in partnership with the PanaBIOS Consortium, compatibility with the Trusted Travel and Trusted Vaccines standards in record time.

The recognition of Togo's digital efforts by the African Union once again marks the country's commitment to use innovation and cooperation to deal with Covid-19. Togo is also committed to the ongoing West African Health Organisation (WAHO) digital COVID-19 management project BIOMARS and will be making further announcements shortly.

Professor Moustafa Mijiyawa, Minister of Health, Public Hygiene and Universal Access to Health Care, reiterated the will of the Togolese State to protect its population against the Coronavirus: *"The government's efforts in managing the health crisis related to COVID-19, particularly in the implementation of the vaccination strategy, are praiseworthy. With more than 500,000 people fully vaccinated and almost a million people partially vaccinated, Togo now has a vaccination rate of 12% and is working to significantly improve this rate by the end of this year. It is therefore a joy for us that these efforts are supported by the African Union, the Africa CDC and the PanaBIOS Consortium, all of which are working diligently to ensure the secure and reliable production and verification of vaccination certificates on a continental scale"*.

Cina Lawson, Minister of Digital Economy and Digital Transformation, for her part, said that *"the digital solutions designed by Togo since the advent of COVID-19 meet international standards, which allows us today to establish interoperability with the rest of the world in record time. It is a further pride for us that the African Union recognizes our COVID-19 digital certificate, after its recent recognition by the 27 member states of the European Union"*.

The digitization of the vaccination certificate is a first step in the effort to digitize the health sector in Togo. Ultimately, this digitalization will facilitate, among other things, continuous round-the-clock support to patients and lay the foundations for the development of telemedicine. The recognition of the Togolese COVID-19 vaccination certificate by the African Union also mirrors the importance for countries to build interoperable digital solutions that meet the continent's requirements in this area.

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USER GUIDE FOR THE AFRICA UNION TRUSTED TRAVEL PLATFORM FOR THE COVID-19 CERTIFICATES

This guide has been prepared to provide basic information about the Trusted Travel and Trusted Vaccines Initiative for travel into and out of Togo.

For Outbound Travelers

- Any person intending to travel from Togo is required to check the travel requirements of the destination and transit countries including the requirements for a COVID-19 test at <https://africacdc.org/trusted-travel/>
- All departing passengers are expected to present themselves with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from any one of the Trusted Travel authorized laboratories.

Note :

- Only authorized RT-PCR COVID-19 testing laboratories which have been onboarded to the TT system can be chosen for testing.
- Newly authorized laboratories can be found by visiting the trusted travel portal and creating an account at <https://trustedtravel.panabios.org>.
- To find authorized laboratories, travelers must indicate their country of origin and intended destination.
- Passengers should present the necessary travel documents like passport and air ticket when they go to the laboratories. They must give the same email address and mobile number they intend to use to operate their online account at voyage.gouv.tg.
- After the passenger gets tested or vaccinated at one of the authorized laboratories or vaccination centers, he/she will receive a system generated test certificate and vaccination booklet via email from the testing laboratory and/or <https://voyage.gouv.tg>. Travellers can download copies of their Trusted Vaccines booklet or TT codes from <https://vaccin.covid19.gouv.tg> and <https://voyage.gouv.tg>, respectively.