

Verifying COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards

Health care and vaccine providers play an important role in entering and verifying COVID-19 immunization records into the Washington State Immunization Information System (WAIS) registry. To prevent fraud, you should be sure to properly vet anyone who presents a COVID-19 vaccination record card from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Fraudulent CDC vaccination record cards are considered a public safety risk at the federal level. The FBI released a [Public Service Announcement](#) on March 30, 2021, saying fake vaccination cards are illegal and punishable by law. The FBI also states that “misrepresenting yourself as vaccinated when entering schools, mass transit, workplaces, gyms, or places of worship, you put yourself and others around you at risk of contracting COVID-19.”

We have heard reports of people identifying as being from out of state who present a CDC vaccination card and request record entry into the WAIS for recognition in Washington. Some common scenarios you may encounter are outlined below, along with action steps to take in each situation so you can serve people in Washington and discourage fraudulent activity:

Scenario 1: Person has vaccine card they want entered in WAIS

Step 1: Ask the patient for confirmation

- Check to make sure their identification (driver’s license, utility bill, school records, or other proof of residency documentation) matches the name on their CDC vaccine card (or other [WA State Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination](#)).
- Ask the patient if their card was issued by a licensed medical provider or pharmacist at the time of vaccination. Explain that you’re asking because it’s against the law to present a false COVID-19 vaccine card.

Step 2: Ask for and inspect their vaccination record card

- Be suspicious of cards printed on thin paper or edges that appear cut by scissors.
- Valid CDC vaccination cards (or [WA COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates](#)) should include all the following information: product name*, date of dose(s), vaccine lot number, patient’s date of birth, the clinic/location or medical provider’s name, and possibly an IIS reference number. The cards measure 4” x 3” in size.
- [Look up the vaccine lot numbers](#) to verify if it was distributed during the timeframe the card indicates the patient received the vaccine. **note: only Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccines are currently authorized for administration in the United States.*

If you identify a problem during any of these steps, let the patient know you are not able to proceed with entering their record. If fraud is suspected, follow steps in [Scenario 2](#) below.

Scenario 2: You suspect the card or other records are fraudulent

Step 1: Do not enter the record into the WAIS

- If you are unsure if the proof presented to you is authentic, or if the patient is resistant to any of the confirmation steps, you may tell them to contact the Washington State Department of Health Office of Immunization for further assistance at 360-236-3595.

Step 2: Report suspected fraud

- If you think it's likely the card is fake, do not enter it into the WAIS. Report it to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General by [submitting a report online](#) or calling 800-447-8477. Please also let the Department of Health know at Covid.Vaccine@doh.wa.gov.
- The Washington State Office of the Attorney General (ATG) would like to receive complaints about the sale of phony vaccination cards. Credible complaints can be filed through the normal complaint intake process, outlined on the ATG website [here](#).

Scenario 3: Person has an Electronic Health Record (EHR) from another provider

Step 1: Attempt to transfer their health record into the WAIS

- Follow the normal process for historical vaccinations and electronically transfer their EHR from another state to the IIS. This is common procedure for all patients moving from out of state.
- If presented with a printout of an EHR, or other medically verified certificate of immunization status, attempt to access it electronically following the steps above.
- If electronic version is not found, refer to page 4 of DOH's [Acceptable Versions of a Certificate of Immunization Status \(PDF\)](#) for validation guidance.

Step 2: If COVID-19 vaccination is not recorded in their EHR or printout from out of state

- Refer to steps in [Scenario 1](#) to process a request for confirming COVID-19 vaccination.

Scenario 4: Person has Department of Defense vaccination record

Step 1: Process the request through normal channels

- Enter World Health Organization (WHO) Yellow Card (International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis) records into the WAIS. Use [Scenario 3](#) steps if necessary.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 ([Washington Relay](#)) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.