

Nova Scotia: Proof of Vaccination Digital Verification

Nova Scotia Business & Labour Economic Coalition

OCTOBER 20, 2021

Agenda

- Update on VaxCheckNS Launch
- Demo of using VaxCheckNS
- Learnings from Pilot Testing with Pier 21
- Accepting other Jurisdictions QR Codes
- Privacy / Information Use
- Discussion

Launching VaxCheckNS

We are here:
October 20th

Out of Province Vaccine
Request Service
October 4

October

**Proof of Vaccination
Certificate**

Addition of QR code &
alignment to Smart Health
Card standards

October 1

POV Policy
Effective Date
October 4

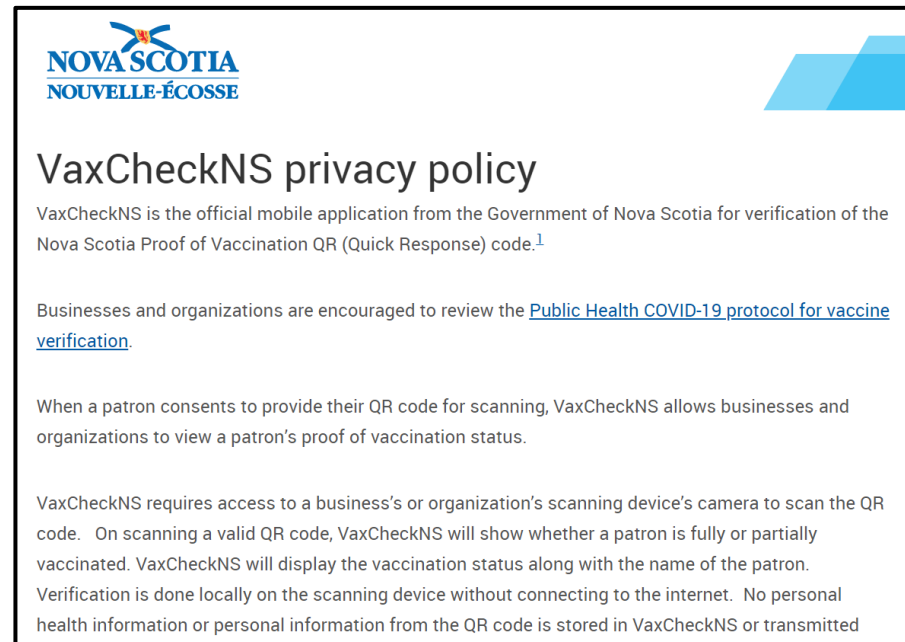
Launch of Provincially
issued VaxCheckNS
Verification App
October 22*

Reading Other Jurisdictions QR Codes

- On October 22, VaxCheckNS will support reading 'some' other jurisdictions QR Codes, including:
 - Yukon, Saskatchewan, Nunavut, Manitoba, Northwest Territories
- We are working with the remaining provinces and territories as they continue to advance their POVs with QR codes to have our VaxCheckNS app read these codes
- We will continue to work with our Federal partners to accept International QR codes as they become available as well
- Sharing and reading codes is a handshake between each jurisdiction so while NS may be ready, we need the responsible jurisdiction to share information

VaxCheckNS: Privacy and Information Storage

- The app does not store or transmit any personal information (if staff are using personal devices)
- Link to our Privacy Policy here:
<https://support.novascotia.ca/privacy/verify-pov-application/>



The screenshot shows the VaxCheckNS privacy policy page. At the top left is the Nova Scotia logo with the text "NOVA SCOTIA" and "NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE". The title "VaxCheckNS privacy policy" is centered. Below the title, the text states: "VaxCheckNS is the official mobile application from the Government of Nova Scotia for verification of the Nova Scotia Proof of Vaccination QR (Quick Response) code.¹" A link is provided: "Businesses and organizations are encouraged to review the [Public Health COVID-19 protocol for vaccine verification](#)." The next paragraph says: "When a patron consents to provide their QR code for scanning, VaxCheckNS allows businesses and organizations to view a patron's proof of vaccination status." The final paragraph states: "VaxCheckNS requires access to a business's or organization's scanning device's camera to scan the QR code. On scanning a valid QR code, VaxCheckNS will show whether a patron is fully or partially vaccinated. VaxCheckNS will display the vaccination status along with the name of the patron. Verification is done locally on the scanning device without connecting to the internet. No personal health information or personal information from the QR code is stored in VaxCheckNS or transmitted."

Pilot Testing Learnings

On October 15, we tested VaxCheckNS with Pier 21 and learned:

- Best Tips for Scanning QR Codes:
 - Digital version is preferred for fast and reliable scans.
 - Digital PDF works best when QR code zoomed to fit screen.
 - Screenshot of full-sized PDF does not work well due to pixilation when zooming in.
 - Folded or wrinkled paper does not work very well and manual inspection is suggested
 - If presenting paper version, lay it flat on a table for best results.
 - Apple Health also works well, as will Apple Wallet when that becomes available.
- Scanning was more efficient (in most cases) than checking paper
- We made improvements to the scanning accuracy; the latest version is much quicker to scan.
- We removed some features that weren't meeting user needs, including removing the timeout function.
- We added additional features to our product backlog including a toggle to prevent the app from going to sleep.

Questions & Answers:

Q1: Where do I go to download the app to read the QR codes?

A1: *The app will be available in the Apple and Google app stores. Search for “VaxCheckNS”*

Q2: What equipment can be used?

A2: *Recent iOS or Android device is required. Both phones and tablets are supported. Minimum supported Android version is 6. Blackberry is not supported.*

Q3: Once the app is downloaded, does it require updates / downloads?

A3: *The default setting is to allow the app to automatically update once the Province releases an update (new version) to the app store as long as there is internet connectivity. The app will display a warning message if it has not been able to connect to the internet for more than 7 days to check for updates.*

Q4: What is the optimal scanning distance?

A4: *It varies based on the resolution of the camera on the scanning device, as well as the size and display of the QR code being scanned. We suggest around 30cm for best results.*

Questions & Answers:

Q5: How long do you have to hold phone or iPad to scan?

A5: *It varies based on how the QR code is presented. A properly sized digital version will scan near instantly. If the QR code being scanned is too small or the paper is wrinkled it may take longer.*

Q6: Would there be any reason for an interruption when scanning? If so is the only option to manual screening?

A6: *The app works offline, so there should be no reason for any interruption.*

Q7: Do you have to check ID once the QR code is scanned?

A7: *Yes, you will still be required to verify that the person presenting their ID matches the name appearing on the app.*

October 22: VaxCheckNS App

QR Code reader for venues and organizations

