



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 August 2021

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2021 - 0348

FOR:

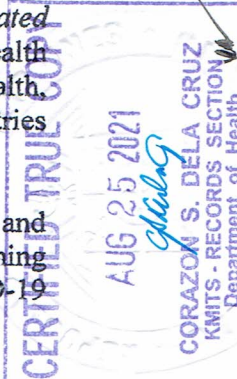
ALL UNDERSECRETARIES; ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, REGIONAL OFFICES AND SERVICES; BUREAU OF QUARANTINE, DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL BUREAU, EPIDEMIOLOGY BUREAU, PHARMACEUTICAL DIVISION, HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUREAU, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF, FIELD IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION TEAM, NATIONAL VACCINE OPERATIONS CENTER, BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, CONSUMER GROUPS, PATIENT GROUPS, WORKER GROUPS AND UNIONS; CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS; HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS; AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: CORESIA Vaccine Certificate Survey for Key Stakeholders

The Department of Health, through the Health Technology Assessment Unit (HTAU), pledged to support and partake in the survey on *COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Research and Decision Support Initiative in Asia (CORESIA) initiative: a Regional Study on Vaccination Certificates and related travel instruments*. This survey is part of a regional study headed by research teams from Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) Thailand, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand and the National University of Singapore (NUS) together with members from countries across Asia.

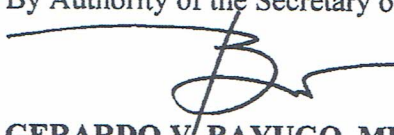
This important initiative will help guide the current efforts of our government in crafting and implementing an effective and fair policy on vaccine certificates. This will also aid in strengthening international relations with other countries in Asia, relative to the implications of COVID-19 vaccination on trade, travel, employment, and other social and economic activities.

In fulfillment of the initiative, an email campaign was sent last 06 August 2021 with the subject: "Re: [Survey] COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Research and Decision Support Initiative in Asia (CORESIA): a regional study on vaccination certificates" which includes the survey information. As such, we would like to ask your good Office to respond to the CORESIA key stakeholder survey through this link: bit.ly/CORESIA-StakeholderSurvey

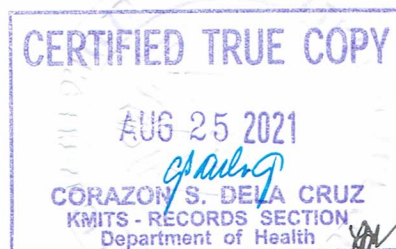


Please be apprised that the survey will run until the end of August 2021. Also attached herewith is the Project Summary for your reference. Should you have questions or concerns, you may contact us via email at hta@doh.gov.ph. Thank you very much and best regards

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:



GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO I
Undersecretary of Health
Health Regulation Team



COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Research and Decision Support Initiative in Asia (CORESIA) and a Regional Study on Immunity Passports

Project summary

Background

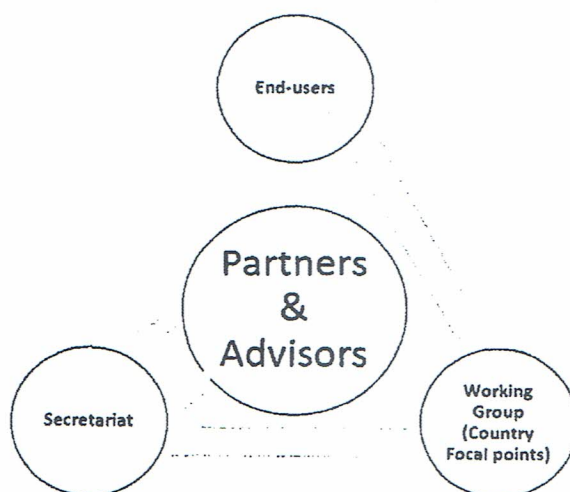
Since the start of 2021, the pandemic has taken a more hopeful turn with the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines. As such, decision-makers, globally, are now debating and contemplating the idea of vaccination certificate or immunity passport as instruments for safe passage into the “new-normal”, where economies and borders can be reopened. However, at this stage, there are more questions than answers regarding the development and implementation of such an instrument. Furthermore, there are social, ethical, and implementation issues that need to be discussed. Asia operates as a highly interconnected region, with member countries reliant on one other for manufacturing, trading, and tourism. This makes it imperative to have a dialogue between relevant stakeholders, regionally, and to have a common policy on immunity passport, if there were to be one.

Objective

- To develop a guidance document targeted at national and regional COVID-19 vaccine related policymakers that aims to shed light on the consideration, development, and implementation of vaccination certificate or immunity passport. This will be accompanied by a minimum dataset (MDS) that is required to develop and ensure its effectiveness in safe movement across borders.
- To streamline information sharing regarding vaccination outcomes and policies for e.g. coverage, adverse events, etc.

Structure of CORESIA

- Partners are the funders of this project i.e. the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)
- End-users are all relevant stakeholders (beyond health sector) who may be impacted by COVID-19 vaccination policies and wish to engage with CORESIA
- Secretariat comprising HITAP and NUS
- Working Group comprising local institutions in Asia with direct links with end-users in respective countries
- Advisory Group comprising of experts in the field of public health, epidemiology, vaccines and disease control



Method

The research teams from NUS and HITAP will work with similar institutions in the region to form a Working Group (WG) to engage with relevant stakeholders in their respective countries, for example, national vaccine working groups, ministry of health, ministry of tourism, ministry of home affairs, immigration office, airlines association, etc. to understand wider considerations around vaccination passport. This will be performed by conducting online surveys among such stakeholders. Furthermore, stakeholder consultations may be held before and/or after the surveys to discuss the findings and their implications. These findings along with literature search on related policies, lessons from yellow fever certificate, and International Health Regulation (IHR) will then be harvested into the guidance document.

Expected benefits

A national recommendation on COVID-19 vaccine policy that ensures public health safety and allows us to open borders to recover our economy. This national recommendation will further be drafted to work at the regional level, in particular for ASEAN.

Commitments

- Participate and contribute to the discussion during the WG meetings
- Help conduct the online surveys among relevant stakeholders in your relevant countries
- Contribute to the development and review of the guidance document on vaccine passport
- Contribute to information sharing on vaccination outcomes and policies
- Reporting to the funder

Activities and Timelines

	1-Mar	15-Mar	1-Apr	15-Apr	1-May	15-May	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	...Mar 2022
Project initiation meeting (HITAP/NUS)													
Groups													
Forming Advisory and Working Groups													
WG meetings													
AG meetings													
Thai stakeholder consultation													
Literature review													
Scientific summary, current updates worldwide													
Online survey													
Develop online survey													
Conduct online survey													
Analyse online survey													
National guidance document													
Draft													
Finalise													
Regional report to ASEAN													
Draft													
Finalise													
COVID-19 vaccine policies information exchange													