

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

28th January 2022

Dear Constituent,

RE: VACCINE PASSPORTS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding COVID-status certification and vaccine passports. I have read your comments on this with interest.

I appreciate the sincerely held arguments against the use of such certification, but Ministers believed that this would be a valuable tool to curb the spread of COVID-19.

As you will be aware, when the Omicron variant began to dominate, the Government decided to enact the 'Plan B' measures designed to prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed. This decision was based on three factors: the dramatically increased transmissibility of the variant; the unknown severity of Omicron; and the likelihood of lower immunity from vaccination compared to past variants.

These regulations made the NHS COVID Pass mandatory for nightclub entry, or indeed any venue where large crowds gather (including unseated indoor venues with more than 500 people, unseated outdoor venues with more than 4,000 people and any venue with more than 10,000 people).

I am glad, however, that, after a review of the latest data, the Prime Minister announced that 'Plan B' restrictions would be removed from Thursday 27th January, reverting to 'Plan A' measures set out in the 'Autumn and Winter Plan' - a decision I very strongly welcomed. This includes the end of the compulsory use of COVID-status certification in England, though organisations can, of course, choose to use the NHS COVID Pass voluntarily.

Currently, the NHS COVID Pass can be obtained with two doses of a vaccine, though the Government will review this as boosters continue to be rolled out. Furthermore, a negative lateral flow test will be sufficient evidence to demonstrate COVID-status.

Looking ahead, the Prime Minister has stated that all current regulations relating to COVID-19 will be reviewed by the 24th March 2022, subject to the data and evidence on transmission of the virus.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you, then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,
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TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE