



Tech Executive
Leadership Initiative

POLICY

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Advocating for Federal Vaccine Credential System Standards

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The State of Outdoorsville is currently grappling with whether it should develop a digital vaccine credential system that would allow residents to show their proof of COVID-19 vaccination. This memo recommends that the State should not develop its own vaccine credential system because it would not solve the demand for proving vaccine status nor would it expedite the re-opening of business, schools, and other services. The State should instead advocate that the federal government establish a set of technical and equity standards that any vaccine credential system established by the private or public sectors would then abide by.

BACKGROUND:

As more citizens of Outdoorsville are being vaccinated against COVID-19, there may be a growing demand for residents to show their proof of vaccinations when gaining entrance to various facilities. Though the State of Outdoorsville has yet to create its own vaccine credential system, numerous such systems are already under development in the United States and around the world. Example initiatives include [CommonPass](#) and the [Vaccine Credentials Initiative](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The State of Outdoorsville should not create its own state-specific vaccine credential system because:

- a. Uncertainty persists around the value of a vaccine credential due to conflicting information about whether herd immunity

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is ultimately possible;

- b. The unpredictability of virus variants have the potential to render a vaccine credential moot;
- c. Emerging vaccine technologies have differing efficacies and possibly differing durabilities;
- d. Building such a system would be expensive, and could duplicate already-existing vaccine credentials systems that the private sector is developing;
- e. The use cases for a vaccine credential system are unclear;
- f. There is little proof that a vaccine credential system will actually reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in Outdoorsville; and
- g. The system could not be used by the many non-resident tourists and workers who visit Outdoorsville, reducing any benefit to citizens of Outdoorsville.

Instead, Outdoorsville should advocate for the federal government to establish a set of digital vaccine credential standards that preserve privacy, protect individual health data, and ensure equity of access to essential services.

For details on how to operationalize these recommendations, please see:

- ▶ [An advocacy memo](#) from Outdoorsville to the federal government advocating they take the lead on a digital vaccine credential; and
- ▶ [A draft list](#) of digital vaccine credential standards.



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ABOUT TELI

This project was completed as part of the Tech Executive Leadership Initiative (TELI), a 10-week skills-building initiative that prepares experienced technology leaders to engage effectively with public sector challenges. Learn more at aspentechpolicyhub.com/teli.



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