

Travellers vaccinated with AstraZeneca in India may not be eligible for EU 'Green Pass'

Akshita Jain 2 hrs ago



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People in India who have been inoculated with the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine may not be eligible for the European Union's "green pass" scheme, according to reports.



© AP
A health worker administers the Covishield vaccine to a woman in India's Hyderabad on 23 June, 2021

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- AP

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) recognises four Covid-19 vaccines: Comirnaty (BioNTech-Pfizer), Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Moderna and Vaxzevria (Oxford-AstraZeneca).

Covishield, which is the branding for the AstraZeneca shot produced in India by the Serum Institute of India (SII), has been granted emergency use listing by the World Health Organisation but it is yet to be approved by the EMA. The EU's drug regulator told *The Wire* it has not yet received an approval application for Covishield.

SII has produced hundreds of millions of doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca's vaccine, other countries including the UK, where they are not then branded as Covishield.

Top Indian virologist Shahid Jameel told *The Wire* that while batches of Vaxzevria from different manufacturers, the end products are qualitatively similar.

Addressing concerns of those vaccinated with Covishield, SII's chief executive Ad... matter up at the "highest levels".



Video: Hunt: Over 50s should still proceed with second dose of AstraZeneca (Sky News Australia)

He said in a tweet: "I realise that a lot of Indians who have taken Covishield are facing issues with travel to the EU. I assure everyone, I have taken this up at the highest levels and hope to resolve this matter soon, both with regulators and at a diplomatic level with countries."

The Economic Times said it has learnt that India's foreign ministry has also already raised the issue with the EMA.

An AstraZeneca spokesperson said: "We are working closely with the EMA as they develop guidance to support opening of borders and relaxing restrictions, and this includes guidance on inclusion of Covishield as a recognised vaccine for immunisation passports."

The EU's vaccine certificate, the digital "green pass", is due to come into effect from 1 July and aims to facilitate movement during the pandemic within the bloc. It will serve as a proof that a person has been vaccinated, received a negative test result or recovered from Covid-19.

The European Commission has said it also aims to ease restrictions on non-essential travel into the EU. For those travelling from a non-EU country, it said the rules for acceptance of proof of vaccination would be the same as for EU nationals.

This means that vaccines that have received EU-wide marketing authorisation have to be accepted, but individual states can decide to also accept vaccines approved by the WHO, the commission said.

India is currently administering Covishield and Covaxin, a jab made by local firm Bharat Biotech which is yet to be approved by either the WHO or the EMA. The country has also started to roll out Russia's Sputnik V, as it aims to inoculate all adults in India by the end of 2021.



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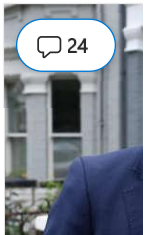


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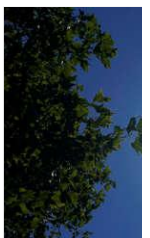
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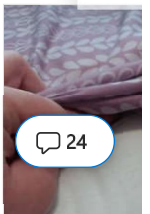
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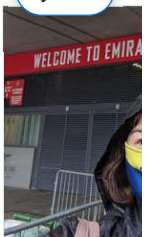
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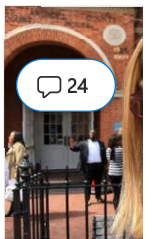


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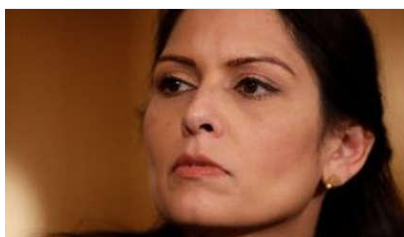
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Fake delivery scams have soared during the pandemic with more than 60% of Britons reporting receiving at least one such text in the past year, research from the consumer rights group Which? has revealed. The scams are so prevalent

