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Covid vaccine passports 'will be here by summer' for travel to the EU

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said EU leaders agreed 'we need a digital vaccination certificate' and they could take three months to draw up

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By **Dan Bloom** Online Political Editor

08:42, 26 FEB 2021

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 **A beach in Greece last May** (Image: NurPhoto via Getty Images)

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Coronavirus vaccine passports will exist by this summer for travel to the EU, Germany's leader has suggested.

Chancellor Angela Merkel last night said "everyone agreed that we need a digital vaccination certificate" at an EU summit.

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earliest date for holidays to be allowed from the UK.

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 **German Chancellor Angela Merkel** (Image: REUTERS)

Since **Brexit** the UK is considered a 'third country' meaning there are tight restrictions on travel into the EU due to **coronavirus**.

A scheme allowing people to prove their vaccine status could open the door to holidays in the EU this summer.

Currently going on holiday from the UK is illegal, with travel only allowed for people with a reasonable excuse such as work.

A Global Travel Taskforce is due to review the current rules and report back by April 12 to give families time to plan their summer.

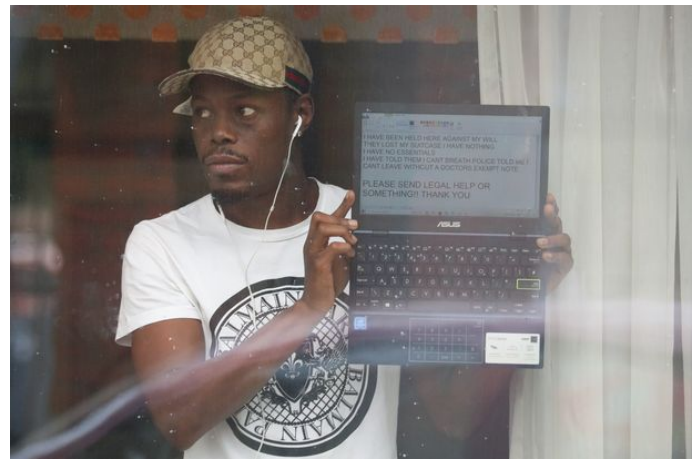
The ban on international holidays will not be lifted before May 17 at the earliest. Even when it is eased, it is possible families will still have to quarantine for 10 days on their return - which could include £1,750-a-head stays in a hotel.

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Boris Johnson has ordered a review by **Michael Gove** to look at a system in the UK allowing people to show a vaccine passport.

This could include re-engineering the NHS Covid-19 app, downloaded more than 20million times, to show a vaccine or test result.

The PM has said he is happy to work on a passport scheme for foreign travel, though there are question marks about whether it will be used domestically for entry to theatres, cinemas, and restaurants.

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