

## British Airways eyeing app-based digital health pass

A Monitor Report

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**London** : British Airways is planning for an app-based digital health pass as airlines are preparing for the expected relaxation in restrictions later this spring which may lead to a big restart of international travel.

This update follows a previous announcement from the carrier's parent company, IAG, which stated that such passes would help to reopen skies safely.

According to reports, BA is looking to make it easier for passengers to prove that they are safe to travel once they have been vaccinated against the virus. Under the plans, those who have had two doses will be able to register their status on the flag carrier of the United Kingdom's mobile app. Notably, the operator wants to be a leader in this next stage.

"We're making great progress in Britain in dealing with the pandemic. It's fair to say that Britain has developed a really strong leadership position in coming out the other end of the pandemic," British Airways Chief executive Sean Doyle said.

"What we want to make sure is that we also take that leadership position into restoring travel and restoring the economy."

Altogether, several airlines across the globe have been rolling out digital health passes. Most countries have some sort of requirement for entry, whether it is testing, quarantine, or vaccination. So, depending on the specifications of the destination, these apps will make it easier to store and share information to travel. British Airways already uses the VeriFLY platform on all inbound flights.

There is plenty of pent-up demand to travel this summer. Future bookings surged after the UK government first spoke about its roadmap to recovery last month. So, the last thing British Airways wants is to suspend services again. Therefore, these initiatives will help coordinate efficient and safe travel.