

Countries wondering whether to have vaccine passports

1st March, 2021



Governments around the world may create "vaccine passports" to help open up societies. The passport would be a record of the holder having had the COVID-19 vaccine. It could be downloaded on a smartphone or it could be added to the microchip in identity cards. Businesses such as restaurants and theatres might require people to show their passport before they enter. People may also need one to enter venues to watch sporting events. Supporters of the passports say it would also allow people to travel overseas more easily. The World Health Organization is looking at a possible international scheme. This would require countries to agree on what kind of passport is necessary.

Opponents of vaccine passports say they are unfair and could create inequality in society. Many people do not want the vaccine. Some people say it goes against their religion. Other people do not trust the vaccine and say it has not been tested enough and is therefore unsafe. Some people worry about the security of their health data. These people may not be able to go to restaurants or get on airplanes. Israel's Health Minister Yuli Edelstein said anyone unwilling or unable to get the jab will be "left behind" in life. In addition, the vaccine is not available to everyone in the world. A human rights professor said: "For many low-income countries, most people won't be vaccinated for many years."

Sources: bbc.com / ft.com / apnews.com

Writing

Everyone should have a vaccine passport. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

vaccine / societies / passport / smartphone / microchip / restaurants / sporting events / unfair / inequality / religion / unsafe / health / data / airplanes / human rights / years

True / False

- a) Governments want to open up societies with vaccine passports. T / F
- b) The passport will only be put on smartphones. T / F
- c) People will not need a vaccine passport to go into a restaurant. T / F
- d) The WHO already has a vaccine passport that countries can use. T / F
- e) Some people say a vaccine passport will create inequality. T / F
- f) Some people do not want the vaccine on religious grounds. T / F
- g) Israel's health minister said those without a vaccine will be left behind. T / F
- h) The vaccine is available to everyone in the world. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. record | a. abroad |
| 2. enter | b. hesitant |
| 3. overseas | c. required |
| 4. scheme | d. believe in |
| 5. necessary | e. documentation |
| 6. inequality | f. safety |
| 7. trust | g. plan |
| 8. security | h. go in |
| 9. unwilling | i. at hand |
| 10. available | j. imbalance |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about vaccine passports?
- c) What are the arguments for vaccine passports?
- d) What are the arguments against vaccine passports?
- e) Why might vaccine passports create inequality in society?
- f) Why are many people worried about having the vaccine?
- g) How unfair are vaccine passports to poorer countries?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a vaccine maker?

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Phrase Match

1. create "vaccine passports" to help
 2. a record of the holder having had
 3. it could be added to the microchip
 4. People may also need one to enter
 5. agree on what kind
 6. they are unfair and could create
 7. Some people say it goes against
 8. it has not been tested enough and
 9. unwilling or unable
 10. the vaccine is not available
- a. their religion
 - b. venues
 - c. of passport is necessary
 - d. the COVID-19 vaccine
 - e. to get the jab
 - f. is therefore unsafe
 - g. in identity cards
 - h. inequality in society
 - i. to everyone
 - j. open up societies

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know about vaccines?
- b) What do you think of the COVID-19 vaccine?
- c) Would you have the vaccine?
- d) Should everyone in the world be given the vaccine?
- e) What do you think of a vaccine passport?
- f) How might a vaccine passport open up societies?
- g) When do you think international travel will be normal again?
- h) What things can you not do because of COVID-19?

Spelling

1. to help open up sstoeciel
2. added to the microchip in ntlieydc cards
3. enter nevesu to watch sporting events
4. travel srasevoe
5. a possible international scmhee
6. what kind of passport is ecearsnys
7. unfair and could create tiulalqeyn
8. it goes against their elnogiri
9. people worry about the ueycrsti
10. wuniniql or unable to get the jab
11. not blalaealy to everyone
12. most people won't be dnciatcea

Role Play

Role A – Old people

You think old people should get the vaccine first. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people should not get the vaccine first. Also, tell the others which of these should be last (and why): children, teachers or politicians.

Role B – Children

You think children should get the vaccine first. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people should not get the vaccine first. Also, tell the others which of these should be last (and why): old people, teachers or politicians.

Role C – Teachers

You think teachers should get the vaccine first. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people should not get the vaccine first. Also, tell the others which of these should be last (and why): children, old people or politicians.

Role D – Politicians

You think politicians should get the vaccine first. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people should not get the vaccine first. Also, tell the others which of these should be last (and why): children, teachers or old people.

Speaking – Priority

Rank these with your partner. Put the people who should get the vaccine first at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Police officers
- Nurses
- Shop workers
- Bus drivers
- Old people
- Children
- Teachers
- Politicians

