

Increase of fake Covid-19 vaccination card and test certification

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Abstract

Vaccination against Covid-19 is the only way to stop the pandemic from spreading anymore, but there have been numerous reports of people getting fake vaccination card and it is been increasing so far. By using a fake vaccination card, people will stop using mask and protective equipment, without any immunity protection. This will only result in an increase in the speed of spread of virus and the next wave of pandemic will hit us even harder.

Keywords: Covid-19; Vaccine; Test certification; Pandemic

1. Introduction

Several countries require vaccination against COVID-19 to keep people safe and prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus. Vaccine certificates are also issued to track the status of those who have been vaccinated but not yet vaccinated. As the world battles the deadly COVID-19 virus, a new problem has emerged: fake vaccination certificates from different countries. Since the national vaccination requirement for 83 million workers goes into effect on January 4, 2022, Google searches for "fake vaccination cards" have also increased.

Although COVID-19 vaccinations are free in the US, fake vaccination cards on the black market can cost their holders and distributors a lot of money and years in prison. Fake identification laws vary by state and situation, such as driving licenses. On the other hand, owning or making a fake vaccination card bearing the official US government seals could be a federal offense, punishable by a fine or jail time [1,3].

However, many people selling fake cards are scammers who took your money in exchange for a fake card and then disappeared. Researchers in Israel found evidence of fake vaccine cards by the National Health Service and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and fake test certificates available for sale on the dark web and through easy-to-use means platforms like Wechat, Telegram, and Whatsapp. Cybersecurity firm Check Point's Oded Vanunu and Liad Mizrahi said there are also products available to vaccinate and treat Covid [4,5].

Following a global warning that vaccination will be an essential target for criminal networks, South African officials have confiscated hundreds of fake COVID-19 vaccines. The officers found 400 vials of fake vaccine - about 2,400 doses - in a warehouse in Germiston, Gauteng, where they also found a vast number of fake 3M masks and detained three Chinese citizens and a Zambian citizen. In China, and France authorities found a network distributing fake COVID-19 vaccines, raided a facility, detained 80 people, and retrieved more than 3,000 fake vaccines on the spot [4].

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Prosecutors are navigating new territory and, in some cases, prosecuting federal vaccine card fraud offenses as people across the country are being asked to provide proof of vaccination for admission to businesses and activities. This includes forging COVID-19 vaccination cards and lying to federal investigators, both of which are punishable by jail time. Fraudulently using the seal of any US department or agency is also an offense that can result in a fine or imprisonment of up to five years. On the other hand, selling legal immunization cards to the unvaccinated could result in 10 years in prison, and lying to a police officer could result in five years in prison [6].

2. Solution: What should you do if you suspect the use of fraudulent COVID vaccination cards?

Vaccine Cards are designed to provide COVID-19 vaccine recipients with information about the type of vaccine they have and when they can receive another dose of vaccine if needed. Do not buy fake vaccination cards; create your own vaccination cards, or fill out blank vaccination cards with false information if you have not received the vaccine. You put yourself and others at risk of contracting COVID-19 by portraying yourself as vaccinated, workplaces, attending schools, public transport, or companies. Unauthorized use of the seal of an official government agency (such as CDC, DPH, or HHS) is also a criminal offense that can be punished under Section 1017 of Title 18 USC and other applicable laws.

There is also another option, a Swedish company, DSruptive Subdermals, which is specialized in implantable microelectronics, suggested using its implants as a medical aid to track COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, it will make it harder to produce fake covid-19 when using these microchips, but they come with their own problems. the microchip could give your data away as it can be scanned by anyone with a reading device.⁷ Global societies now have to work together to solve problems globally instead of isolating themselves [8], without cooperating together, no country in the world can move from this pandemic, it is crucial that healthcare practitioner look for any sign and symptom during their checkups, for example, dental practitioner should be on look-out for COVID-19 oral manifestation⁹, and also don't forget to use pre-treatment mouthwashes to reduce the chance of transmission in case of a positive patient [10].

3. Conclusion

Considering all the warnings, it is wise to continue using personal protective equipment when people go to crowded places and limit the interaction with other individuals even if they have been completely vaccinated.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest.

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