

UK Govt Is 'Absolutely Thinking' About Mandatory Covid Vaccines For Health Workers

Description

UK: The British government is "absolutely thinking about" making Covid-19 vaccination compulsory for healthcare workers vaccine minister Nadhim Zahawi told Sky News.

The government's preparations to roll out mandatory vaccinations for healthcare staff was first reported in March.

Maybe they should follow these healthcare workers in Houston, Texas who have filed a lawsuit against their employer for violating the Nuremberg code.

<u>RT</u> reports: After being <u>asked</u> whether the government would make vaccination compulsory for NHS staff in the near future, Zahawi replied that they have "been consulting in terms of a condition of deployment into social care" and that "it's only right that we look at the healthcare system as well."

Calling it "absolutely the right thing," Zahawi said it would be "incumbent on any responsible government to have the debate" about how to protect the most vulnerable "by making sure those who look after them are vaccinated."

Zahawi noted that there is a precedent for mandatory vaccination, with a requirement that surgeons be vaccinated against Hepatitis B. "So it's something we are absolutely thinking about," he revealed.

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In April, UK Human Rights Blog – which is run by a team of barristers – <u>ruled</u> that "vaccination without consent would be prohibited by the criminal law on assault," though added that the government did have powers within care homes.

"There is nothing in the 2020 [Coronavirus] Act or its schedules that would allow for the introduction of subordinate legislation imposing mandatory vaccination," the blog explained. "Therefore, the imposition of compulsory vaccination beyond the context of care homes is not currently permitted by law and would require an Act of Parliament."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government – and his ministers – have famously flipped between different stances during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In February, Zahawi denied claims that the government was planning to introduce a vaccine passport system, calling the idea "discriminatory." However, just days later, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told LBC that the government hadn't ruled out domestic vaccine passports and that they were still under consideration.

Since then, the NHS app has been extended to be used as vaccine passport, including to enable Brits to go abroad.

By Niamh Harris

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