



Protesters marched in Paris, France, for the 9th **straight** weekend, protesting France's government-**mandated** health pass that is required to enter cinemas, restaurants, gyms, and museums.

The government introduced the measure to slow the spread of COVID-19; however, protesters repeatedly said that the system unfairly restricted the unvaccinated. Under the COVID pass system, introduced in stages since mid-July, anyone wishing to enter a restaurant, theater, cinema, long-distance train, or large shopping center must show proof of vaccination or a negative test.

The government insists that the pass is necessary to encourage more vaccinations and to avoid a fourth national lockdown, with the unvaccinated **accounting** for most of the COVID-19 patients in hospital.

More than 250,000 people marched on previous weekends, claiming that the vaccine wasn't the solution. Some people refused to get their children vaccinated just days before the start of the new school year. An 11-year-old boy who marched with his father said that he wasn't a laboratory rat.

Difficult words: **straight** (through a long time or distance), **mandated** (official authority to carry out a policy or task), **account** (to be the important factor).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *straight, mandated and account*
2. Why were people protesting in Paris, France?
3. Why did France's government introduce the COVID pass system?
4. Why did people disapprove of the health measure that the government has mandated?
5. Why did the 11-year-old boy march with his father and refuse to get vaccinated?

Express Your Thoughts

1. What were the health measures that your government introduced during the surge of the pandemic? Did the citizens of your country approve of the health measures?
2. Were there protests happening anywhere in your country against the health measures?
3. Did your government introduce health measures that restricted the unvaccinated citizens from entering different establishments like restaurants, cinemas, shopping malls, etc.?
4. Do you think France's COVID pass system was fair? If you were French, would you support the protesters?