

## \$25 or less: As students head back to college, officials anticipate surge in fake COVID-19 vaccination cards

As the delta variant of the [coronavirus](#) sweeps across the United States, a growing number of colleges and universities are requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination for students to attend in-person classes. But the new mandate has opened the door for those opposed to getting the vaccine to cheat the system, according to interviews with students, education and law enforcement officials.

Both faculty and students at dozens of schools interviewed by The Associated Press say they are concerned about how easy it is to get fake vaccine cards.

Across the internet, a cottage industry has sprung up to accommodate people who say they won't get vaccinated for either personal or religious reasons.

An Instagram account with the username "vaccinationcards" sells laminated COVID-19 vaccination cards for \$25 each. A user on the encrypted messaging app, Telegram, offers "COVID-19 Vaccine Cards Certificates," for as much as \$200 apiece.

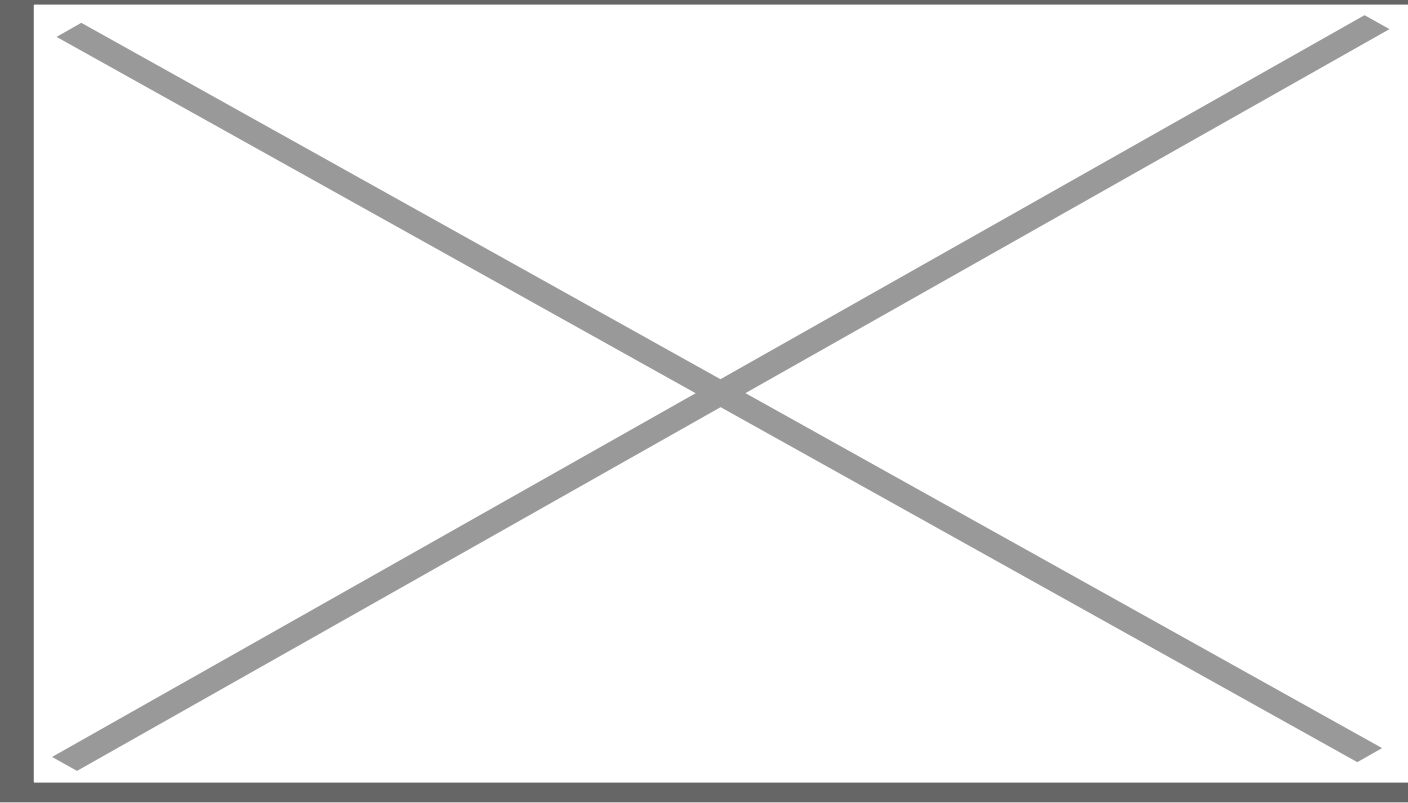
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Maliha Reza, an electrical engineering student at Pennsylvania State University, said it is mind-boggling that students would pay for fake vaccination cards when they could get the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost.

"I'm angry about that, like there is more anger than I could describe right now," Reza said. "It's dumb considering the vaccine is free and it is accessible across the country."

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Credit: WHAS11

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.](#)