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How did you spend your summer vacation essay

With spring right around the corner and summer hot on its heels, vacation sounds tempting. However, if you're planning to take some time off during the warmest season, you might find yourself more swamped than you would be at work.As one CEO on Open Forum suggests, summer—particularly the last couple weeks before the season end—may not be the best time to take a vacation. Not only can the mad rush lead to your favorite destination being overcrowded by families with kids that are out of school, but having a relative lull during the off season can help you catch up on your own work with less stress:1. Schedules are more open. Among lobbyists in Washington, DC, there is a rush to try and set up meetings with influencers during this slower time. Not only are these two weeks slower, but the gatekeepers (such as secretaries or office administrators) are not on high alert, and the "lame ducks" who only have a short time left in their roles may taking meetings with people they usually wouldn't. The same thing is about to happen in the last two weeks of August for every business. Not only do people tend to have fewer meetings and less jam packed days, but the lack of people paid to keep you away can create openings to speak directly to influencers you normally couldn't reach—that is, if you're in town to take advantage of the opportunity.While most of us may not necessarily have a need to meet face to face with politicians, the point generally stands that it's easier to get people's attention or get work done when the office is slower. Then, you can take your own time off when everyone else gets back and have your favorite vacation spot all to yourself.5 Reasons Why You Should NOT Go On Vacation Now | Open Forum via AlltopPhoto by faungg. Photo Courtesy: [Bloomberg/Getty Images] With vaccines bolstering the hope of a return to pre-pandemic circumstances — or a "new normal" in which we're more easily able to move about the world — tourist destinations like Cyprus and the Seychelles have lifted previous lockdowns on tourism. Other popular destinations are considering implementing vaccine passport systems that certify travelers have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.These proposed documents have become somewhat of a divisive issue that has people wondering whether vaccine passports will hasten our return to normal or create future problems. And, now that several countries have begun implementing passports in a variety of different forms, many tourists are wondering if these documents could bring back the possibility of international summer vacations — or if the "wide variation in policies and implementation" stands to complicate the prospect of travel even further. Here's everything we know so far about vaccine passports. Photo Courtesy: [Morsa Images/DigitalVision/Getty Images] Now that widespread vaccination has facilitated reopening in areas across the world, many countries are eager to revive their nearly dormant tourism industries. But there's concern about the potential for new outbreaks occurring in spots that already have taxed medical systems. To mitigate that risk, some countries are considering implementing vaccine passports as a secure method of ensuring travelers have been fully vaccinated. Many countries already have vaccine cards, and some require proof of a negative COVID-19 test from anyone entering their borders. A vaccine passport would be similar: a document containing information — likely an immunization record — that proves a traveler has been fully vaccinated or has at least tested negative for COVID-19. Various travel industry groups, airlines, nonprofit organizations and technology companies are working on creating standardized, digital versions of potential passports that travelers could access via their mobile devices for easy use at airports and other facilities.The World Tourism Organization, a branch of the United Nations, has also joined the conversation around vaccine passports. The organization supports the idea, noting that having an international standard for certifying travelers have been vaccinated is a safe way to revive global tourism. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, explained the purpose of vaccine passports to The New York Times: "One key element vital for the restart of tourism is consistency and harmonization of rules and protocols regarding international travel... Evidence of vaccination, for example, through the coordinated introduction of what may be called 'health passports' can offer this. They can also eliminate the need for quarantine on arrival, a policy which is also standing in the way of the return of international tourism." While there are some apps and airlines that have digital means of establishing whether someone has been vaccinated, there's no widely accepted, standardized version of a vaccine passport right now. Travelers need to check both the national and local requirements for the cities they plan on visiting and ensure they follow those differing guidelines to travel safely (and properly). Photo Courtesy: [Bloomberg/Getty Images] While vaccine passports might seem like a great idea, it's important not to get your hopes up too soon about a potential impending arrival. Currently, a variety of airlines, countries and other entities are each using their own individual systems — so there's a "lack of one central international system to electronically verify vaccination status," according to USA Today. This means that even if you have proper documentation for traveling to one country, it might not be enough to flight-hop to another. And although there are various vaccination cards, certificates and registries right now, creating an internationally recognized standard is turning out to be a logistical challenge.Some countries have stringent laws on compiling and sharing people's personal data. Autonomy and privacy in healthcare are also protected by law in many areas. In some parts of the world it could be risky, legally speaking, for a business to ask customers if they've been vaccinated, so developing a vaccine passport that meets the legal standards of more than one country — and that's also legally enforceable — is a challenge of its own. Passports (the regular ones we use for traveling) have been around since the late 1700s. Still, each country has its own passport. Although most passports contain similar sets of information, there are very few widely accepted international standards for the ways someone can get a passport, the exact information it contains, the intervals at which it has to be renewed and even what it looks like. Countries that are considering adopting vaccine passports would, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, "need to establish agreements with other countries in order to have these passports recognized for international travel." This presents another layer of networked negotiations that would need to take place before a standard could be reached — and "initial passport proposals demonstrate limitations in this regard." This issue is made even more complicated by the fact that each country has had very different responses to COVID-19 and even more varied responses to vaccination rollouts.Vaccine passports would likely note the type of vaccination a traveler has received, which could be a point of contention in itself. Some countries have paused their rollouts of certain types of vaccines due to potential adverse effects. For example, AstraZeneca is one of the main vaccination providers in Europe, while Canadian vaccine sites in several provinces stopped offering that vaccine. Will a European traveler visiting Canada be considered fully vaccinated, even if that vaccination was done with a vaccine Canadian authorities no longer consider absolutely safe?Many Asian and Middle Eastern countries use the Sinopharm vaccine, while AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are more common vaccine choices in Europe and North America. If a tourist from Egypt has been fully vaccinated with Sinopharm, it's unclear whether a country that doesn't administer that vaccine will recognize the tourist as fully vaccinated. Photo Courtesy: [Joseph Prezioso/AFP/Getty Images] Even if there were no discrepancies between types of vaccines, there's also the potential for a vaccine passport to divide society even further based on access to vaccines. Some people with severe allergies, autoimmune disorders and other illnesses or treatments that make them immunocompromised cannot safely get vaccinated — and it's unclear what options they'd have if they wanted to travel.There are still also countries where, due to economic or political reasons, there's a lack of widespread access to the COVID-19 vaccine; by some estimates, these areas may not have access to vaccines until 2023 or later. Some countries, like India and Chad, either don't have enough vaccinations or may not have any at all. In some areas, the expense of getting a vaccination to one person costs up to \$40, regardless of whether it's free for the individual or not. Even with international aid factored in, that cost can still be prohibitively high for developing countries. In more developed countries, there are still setbacks. While younger people can now get vaccinated in the United States due to the emergency authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for people ages 12 and up, there's still a problem with a lack of access. Many have expressed a desire to get the vaccine, but they can't afford a ride or afford to take a day off work to visit a vaccination site — sometimes twice in a month. In some locations, the vaccination sites that were available have shut down or reduced days of operation due to lack of foot traffic. This is causing further difficulty for people who may live far away from vaccination sites or lack transportation or time off work to fit the limited schedule of a vaccination site. Vaccine passports present a logistical challenge that would have to be solved by countries that, in some cases, have reached little consensus on how to mitigate the coronavirus pandemic. Drummond Reed, a chief trust officer for digital privacy developer Evernym, summarized this key issue well: "The global passport system took 50 years to develop... Now, in a very short period of time, we need to produce a digital credential that can be as universally recognized as a passport and it needs an even greater level of privacy because it's going to be digital." These digital documents could also limit travel to individuals with a certain level of privilege or those who live in countries that use more popular vaccines. Until nations around the globe are able to build consensus about designing standardized vaccine passports, we may not see a lasting solution. From local festivals to family cookouts, there are endless ways to have some good old country fun this summer. But, we have to confess that even on the nicest of days, we're sometimes guilty of spending most of our time inside. So we've rounded up 15 everyday activities we usually do indoors that can be easily be moved outside to our backyards and porches this summer. 1. Watch a movie using an outdoor projector. Courtesy of Fresh American Style While you may have to invest in a good projector, this colorful set up by Fresh American Style looks like a whole lot more fun than watching Netflix on the couch. 2. Read a book. Pull up a rocking chair on the porch and cozy up with a good read. Or, if you want to go all out, make your own outdoor reading nook, as seen on Vintage Revivals. Courtesy of Vintage Revivals 3. Set up an outdoor crafting station. Courtesy of Flower Patch Farmhouse Take your crafting outdoors by transforming a potting bench, like Flower Patch Farmhouse's, shown above, into a DIY oasis. Just trade your watering cans and pots for buckets to hold craft supplies. 4. Talk on the phone. It may sound simple, but even a few more minutes spent outside can be seriously good for you! So the next time you pick up the phone, take your call in your backyard. 5. Take family game night outside. Courtesy of All Things Heart & Home Instead of your usual board game, play a bigger and better version of it in your backyard. Above, one creative blogger turned her fire pit cover into a checkerboard. Get the tutorial at All Things Heart & Home. Courtesy of Momma Told Me Or, for a giant game of lawn Twister, all you need is colored spray paint and circular stencils. Get the tutorial at Momma Told Me. 6. Write, just for fun. Getty Images If you're used to working in an office or filling out paperwork, claim writing as something that's fun again by giving creative writing, journaling, or poetry a shot. Nature is the perfect inspiration! 7. Move lunch outside. Shane Welch Photography Eating outside is more fun! Turn your backyard into a whimsical setting for a picnic with a hay bale table, as seen in this anniversary photo shoot by Shane Welch Photography featured on The Wedding Chicks. See more clever tips for hosting a picnic. 8. Give your pet a bath. Getty Images Not only is this a good way to spend more time outside, it also helps you avoid bathroom clean-up. Of course, don't be surprised if your kids want to jump in the tub, too! 9. Go bowling. Courtesy of Growing a Jeweled Rose With plastic pins, bowling can be a backyard activity perfect for everyone from adults to young children. To make your own version, like these cute watermelon pins, all you need are empty two liter bottles. Get the tutorial at Growing a Jeweled Rose. Courtesy of Growing a Jeweled Rose Turn bowling into a nighttime activity by putting glow sticks inside your empty bottles. Get the tutorial at Growing a Jeweled Rose. 10. Listen to music. Getty Images If you normally unwind by listening to your favorite tunes, just take your speakers or headphones outside for an extra dose of relaxation. 11. Or, invite a local band over for a mini neighborhood concert. Getty Images 12. Sleep. Getty Images Even the most mundane of everyday activities can be better enjoyed in your own backyard. Forgo that camping trip to spend the night in a tent that's closer to home. 13. Unwind on your couch. Courtesy o Pretty Prudent Get up from your cozy spot in front of the TV and create an inexpensive pallet sofa. It will encourage you to choose your backyard over your den when it comes time to kick back. Get the tutorial at Pretty Prudent. 14. Host a backyard party. Getty Images Invite your neighbors over for a backyard party to celebrate summer. Your house won't get messy and there will be more space for guests to move around. 15. Take your work outside. Getty Images If you can't seem to step away from your home office, grab your laptop and head to the patio for some fresh air. Your backyard setting will inspire you to type faster so that you can try out some of our other ideas! This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io

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