



April 2, 2021

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL FIGHTS UNLAWFUL SALES OF FAKE VACCINATION CARDS

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today called on Twitter, eBay and Shopify to act immediately to prevent people from selling fraudulent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccination cards on their platforms. Raoul joined a bipartisan coalition of 32 attorneys general in raising concerns about the public health risks of these fake cards in a letter to the companies' CEOs.

"Not only do these fraudulent vaccination cards violate the laws of many states, but more urgently, they threaten the health of our communities and our progress in battling the COVID-19 pandemic," Raoul said. "I am committed to protecting the health and safety of Illinois residents, and I urge the CEOs of Twitter, eBay and Shopify to take action to help us protect our communities and stop this dangerous, fraudulent practice."

Legitimate vaccination cards are given by providers when they administer the vaccine. People who buy fake cards can have their own information added to the card or add it in themselves, so it appears they have been vaccinated when they have not. [In the letter](#), Raoul and the coalition ask the CEOs to:

- Monitor their platforms for ads or links selling blank or fraudulently-completed vaccination cards.
- Promptly take down ads or links that are selling cards.
- Preserve records and information about the ads and the people who were selling them.

Attorney General Raoul also cautions Illinois residents to be vigilant and protect themselves from scams and fraud related to COVID vaccination cards. Raoul issued a consumer alert warning people to avoid posting images of vaccination cards on social media as they include personal information that scammers can use and offered steps people can take to protect themselves.

Raoul is also urging people to avoid websites that claim to sell vaccination cards or doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Illinois public health officials are overseeing the vaccine's distribution, and residents will be able to receive the vaccine only through a designated health or vaccine clinic. Consumers also should be aware that Medicare or Medicaid will not call seniors or residents to proactively offer the COVID-19 vaccine. Residents should consult their health care providers or local health departments for guidance in determining when the vaccine will be available to them. A list of local health departments is available on the [Illinois Department of Public Health's website](#).

Additional vaccine information is available free of charge on the Illinois Attorney General's website and on the Illinois Department of Public Health's website. Individuals can report a website selling fake vaccination cards or a vaccination card scam by calling the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline at 1-800-386-5438 (Chicago), 1-800-243-0618 (Springfield), or 1-800-243-0607 (Carbondale), or by [filing an online complaint](#).

Joining Raoul are the attorneys general of Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Guam, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.



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April 1, 2021

Via First Class and Electronic Mail

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Chief Executive Officer
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Tobias Lütke
Chief Executive Officer
Shopify
33 New Montgomery St #750
San Francisco, CA 94105

Jamie Iannone
Chief Executive Officer
eBay, Inc.
2025 Hamilton Avenue
San Jose, California 95125

Re: Deceptive marketing and sales of fake COVID vaccine cards

Dear Messrs. Dorsey, Lütke and Iannone

The undersigned attorneys general are committed to protecting the safety and well-being of the residents of our states. It has come to our attention that your platforms are being used to market and sell blank or fraudulently completed COVID vaccine cards bearing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention logo.

We are deeply concerned about this use of your platforms to spread false and misleading information regarding COVID vaccines. The false and deceptive marketing and sales of fake COVID vaccine cards threatens the health of our communities, slows progress in getting our residents protected from the virus, and are a violation of the laws of many states. Multiple states' laws provide for injunctive relief, damages, penalties, and other remedies for such conduct.

The use of your platforms to disseminate the deceptive marketing and sales of fake vaccine cards is a threat to residents of our states. As a result, we are asking you to take immediate action to prevent your platforms from being used as a vehicle to commit these fraudulent and deceptive acts that harm our communities. Such action should include, without limitation: (1) monitoring your platforms for ads or links marketing or selling, or otherwise indicating the availability of, blank or fraudulently completed vaccine cards; (2) promptly taking down ads or links identified through that monitoring; and (3) preserving records, such as the content, username, and actual user identity, pertaining to any such ads or links.

We would appreciate a response to this request by April 9, 2021 setting forth how you intend to comply with the foregoing. We are also available for a virtual meeting to further discuss our concerns. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Josh Stein
North Carolina Attorney General



Treg R. Taylor
Alaska Attorney General



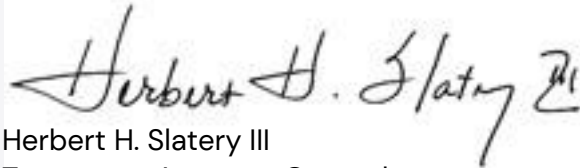
Matthew Rodriguez
Acting California Attorney General



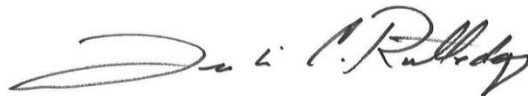
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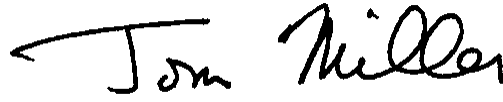
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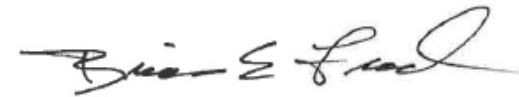
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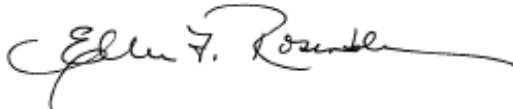
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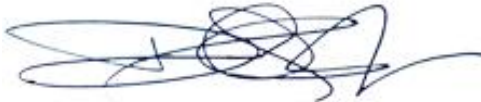
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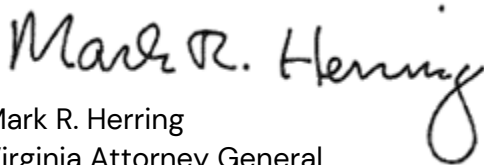
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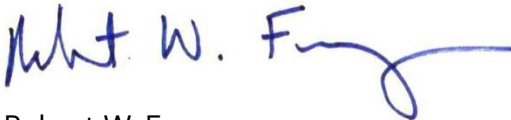
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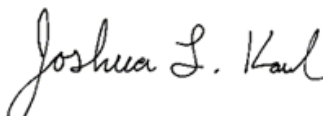
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