People in Paris, France, protested for the 9th weekend against the COVID pass system which the government introduced in July.

The new system means that whoever wants to go to a restaurant, cinema, shopping center, gym, or other public places, must show the COVID pass or a negative test. People get the COVID pass when they receive full COVID-19 vaccination. The government says that the pass will **encourage** more people to get vaccinated, and it is the only way to **avoid** another lockdown.

More than 250,000 protested on previous weekends. Some parents did not want to get their children vaccinated before the start of the school year. An 11-year-old boy in the city of Bordeaux protested with his father, and he said that he did not want to get the vaccine because he was not a **laboratory rat**.

Difficult words: **encourage** (to make someone want to do something), **avoid** (to stay away from someone or something), **laboratory rat** (a rat which scientists use for experiments),

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *encourage, avoid and laboratory rat*

2. Why did the people in Paris protest against their government?

3. What was the COVID system pass all about?

4. Why did the French government introduce the COVID system pass?

5. What do you reckon the 11-year-old boy mean when he said that he didn't want to get vaccinated because he was not a laboratory rat?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Were there any protests happening in your country against COVID vaccinations?

2. How did your government encourage people to get vaccinated?

3. Are children in your country also encouraged to get vaccinated?
   Do you have kids? Will you allow them to get vaccinated?