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A brief run through, then, of "Covid winter plan" day in Westminster.



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Morning. Cabinet meets. Roughly 40 souls, some of them understood to be human, crowd around the cabinet table. None wear a mask but all agree to keep current Covid-19 guidance in place, which includes wearing a mask in crowded indoor spaces. Picture of said meeting is then published for the world to see, for no reason than beyond those present being far more concerned with tending to their own vanity than concealing their ongoing hypocrisy.

To the Commons next. Another crowded indoor space. No masks. The health secretary, Sajid Javid, explains that infections and hospitalisations may be slightly on the rise again, and if things continue to get worse there may be a need to introduced mandatory face coverings and vaccine passports to manage Covid over winter.

There's uproar, of course, from his own side. As things stand, they're being advised to wear a mask but they don't want to so they don't. And when they're told if things get bad again then they'll have wear a mask they're outraged, but not outraged enough to do their tiny bit to maybe make it not come to that. In some ways it's a pity John Kennedy was never one of the right-wing Tory backbench fruit-cake brigade. *Ask not how little you can do to not actively bugger up your own country, ask how angry you can get at somebody else about it.* Has quite a ring to it.

On vaccine passports, the latest is that they might be brought in. No, hang on, it's that they won't be brought in. No, it's not that. They're being kept in reserve, and *in some extreme cases* might have to be brought in. You know, a bit like tax

Next it's the Downing Street press conference. "Wash your hands, wear a mask in crowded settings," explains Boris Johnson – the actual prime minister – a few hours after publishing a picture of himself not doing so.

There was no denial. No shame of any kind. None of them, the people running the country, all of them together, caring

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UK foreign secretary Raab moved to justice minister and deputy PM

LONDON (Reuters) - British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has been appointed justice secretary in Prime Minister Boris Johnson's reshuffle and will also be deputy prime minister, Johnson's office said on Wednesday. T - T Z - T - T - T

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