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# 'The Situation Has Changed': Fauci Explains CDC's Shift In Mask Mandates



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11:52 [Speaker icon] CC HD [Fullscreen icon]

Dr. [Anthony Fauci](#), the nation's top infectious disease expert, championed the recent decision by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to [relax mask mandates](#) for fully vaccinated Americans, saying the situation in the U.S. had changed amid a vaccination blitz and plummeting numbers of COVID-19 infections.

"The data that's accumulated now is that clearly the infections are going down," Fauci told CNN host Jake Tapper

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The CDC on Thursday [eased mask-wearing requirements](#) for the fully vaccinated, saying many Americans could “resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.” The updated rules mean people can forgo face coverings and social distancing even indoors.

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Unvaccinated children still need to wear masks when playing and particularly indoors, Dr. Anthony Fauci tells [@JakeTapper](#). [cnn.it/3ybHGcs](https://cnn.it/3ybHGcs)



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 681  See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

More than [154 million people](#) have been given at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, and nearly 119 million are fully vaccinated. The Food and Drug Administration also approved the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 12 to 15 this week, a significant step that will help schools reach a new stage of normality in the fall.

“If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing the things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic,” Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the head of the CDC, said during a White

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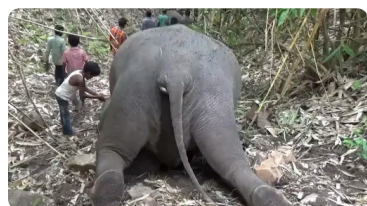


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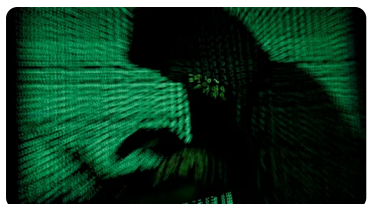


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