

Misinformation throws a wrench in self-imposed mask-wearing | TheHill

By Rob Davidson

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendation that vaccinated Americans can now gather indoors unmasked has drawn flak because it relies on an honor system, which we can't fully trust. But that's not the fault of the CDC — it's the fault of those with platforms who somehow led Americans to stop believing in science and medicine.

As a physician and American still recovering from the trauma of this ongoing pandemic, I can understand why so many are confused or concerned by the updated recommendations. We can't easily tell who's been vaccinated. In a pandemic-era Venn diagram, the intersection of the set showing people opposed to COVID-19 vaccines and the set of anti-maskers would be pretty large. Because we're still a long way away from community immunity, those who've been diligently following safety guidelines for more than a year may view the CDC's new mask direction as a capitulation to these two overlapping groups of naysayers.

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