



Will We Comply?

September 11, 2023

“To every COVID tyrant who wants to take away our freedom, hear these words,” [intoned](#) Donald J. Trump, eleven days ago, “we will not comply.”

The former president did not stop there: “So don’t even think about it. We will not shut down our schools. We will not accept your lockdowns. We will not abide by your mask mandates. And we will not tolerate your vaccine mandates.”

While Trump still boasts about his vaccine heroism, his supporters range from iffy to hostile on the subject. So Trump positions himself *against* mandates and *for* “freedom,” while in the past he was *for* masks and *for* lockdowns, as well as pushing the novel vaccines that cleverly (and perhaps dangerously) leveraged the spiked protein protuberances on SARS-CoV-2.

Meanwhile, Dr. Anthony Fauci, whom Trump brought

into the world conversation about the pandemic in 2020, is similarly trying to position himself with some trickiness and . . . care.

Fauci [foresees](#) mask recommendations, but no mandates — but note that he focuses on what federal bureaucrats say and do, not on what governors in the states do under federal bureaucrats’ advisement.

CNN’s Michael Smerconish [interrogated](#) Fauci about the many studies showing that masks are ineffective against respiratory diseases like COVID.

Fauci’s reply? Against the big study cited [here in February](#), Fauci mentioned “other studies,” lamely and unconvincingly. He admitted that, overall — as affecting the course of the pandemic — “the data” about mask efficacy have been “less strong.” But “on an individual basis of someone protecting themselves, or protecting themselves from spreading to others,” Fauci still insists “there’s no doubt that there are many studies” showing “an advantage.”

If you buy that, you’ll wear masks forever — or comply with *anything*.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.