

UNMASK THE FACTS

April 11- 24

April 18, 2022

Judge voids U.S. mask mandate for airplanes

A federal judge in Florida struck down the federal requirement to wear masks on airplanes, trains, buses, and other public transportation. The decision came shortly after the CDC extended the mask mandate through May 3. The ruling left it up to individual airlines and local transit agencies to decide what to do. Many of the nation's largest airlines have since dropped their mask requirements for domestic flights. The Department of Justice is [appealing](#) the ruling.

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April 18, 2022

CDC drops remaining countries from its 'Do Not Travel' list

The CDC updated its international [COVID-19 travel advisory system](#), dropping all countries from their highest-risk category. The CDC removed all destinations from under its "Level 4: Special Circumstances/Do Not Travel" designation, which warns travelers to avoid nonessential travel due to very high levels of coronavirus cases. Over 100 countries are now in the Level 3 category known as "High Risk." The CDC urges people who are not up to date on their vaccines to avoid travel to these countries.

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April 20, 2022

A second booster shot can be helpful for some, but vaccine uptake is stalling

According to several members of a panel of advisers to the CDC, vaccine uptake goes down with every additional shot recommended. The panel argued that the current booster strategy of recommending more shots every few months is not sustainable. They also stated that while most Americans under 50 should wait for the next generation of booster shots, people at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 should think about getting their second booster shot as soon as they are able.

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April 14, 2022

FDA authorizes first COVID-19 diagnostic test using breath samples

The U.S. FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the first COVID-19 diagnostic test that uses breath samples to detect a SARS-CoV-2 infection. In a large study, the test accurately detected 91% of positive cases and 99% of negative cases. The test can provide results in less than three minutes and can be performed in environments such as doctor's offices, hospitals, and mobile testing sites, using an instrument the size of carry-on luggage.

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April 22, 2022

More children hospitalized for COVID-19 during Omicron

A CDC study found that during the period of Omicron predominance (Dec. 19 to Feb. 28), COVID-19 hospitalization rates in children aged 5-11 years were approximately twice as high among unvaccinated as among vaccinated children. Non-Hispanic Black children represented the largest group of unvaccinated children. Thirty percent of hospitalized children had no underlying medical conditions, and 19% were admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU).

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