

# Muslim Doctor Invited To Speak At Meeting About Delta Variant Harassed By Racist Protesters

By: *Rehan Qamar*

Anti-maskers took their ignorance to a new level during a St. Louis County Council meeting last week. The session, attended by hundreds of maskless protesters, ended with the council reversing a day-old countywide mask mandate. In the following days, many attendees reported that they had contracted COVID-19.

As Missouri health officials conduct contact tracing for the outbreak stemming from the council meeting, other problematic incidents have come to light—including

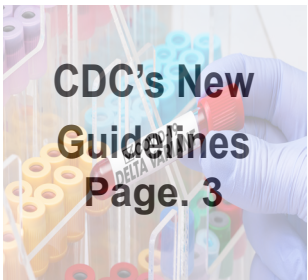


the violence acting director of the St. Louis County Department of Public

Health faced afterward. While Dr. Faisal Khan was berated by some pol-

iticians during the meet-

*Cont. on page 14*



## Op-Ed: An Injustice To The Brightest Light, Noor Mukadam

By *Fiza Bari*

This story was first published in Brown Girl Magazine.

It has been more than a week since the death of Noor Mukadam and I am still restless. I try to close my eyes to sleep, but my mind immediately flickers to Noor's last two days on earth. Initially I fight the images of what I have heard

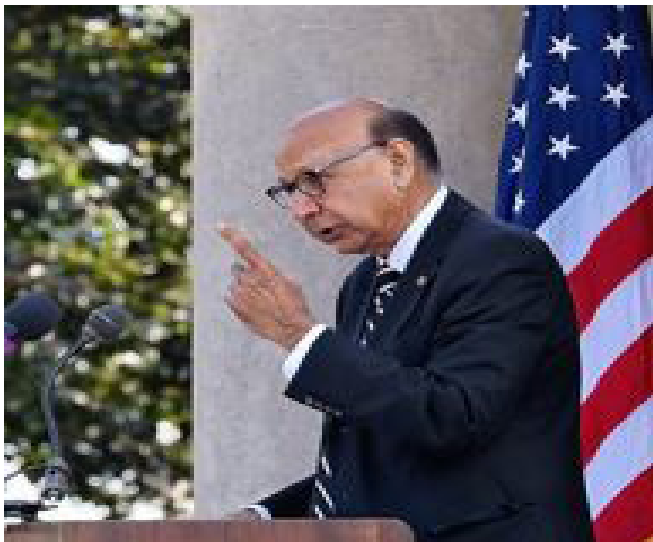


and read. I don't want to believe it. It feels like I'm watching a horror movie in my head, only it's

about someone I know and love. My stomach churns and I'm nauseat-

*Cont. on page 13*

## 'Instead Of Naming And Shaming, I Believe In Engagement': Khizr Khan Nominated To USCIRF



By: *Aysha Qamar*  
On Friday, President Joe Biden announced

his plans to nominate Khizr Khan, the Gold

*Cont. on page 12*

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# Eric Sabree, Wayne County Michigan Treasurer Elected To Second Full Term In Office

By Basheer Alim

“The Best of you is he who is most Benefit to others” – Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Detroit Mi. – Eric Sabree initially served as Wayne County Treasurer for 5 years. His first year, in 2015, was to complete the term of his retiring predecessor. He was elected for his first full term in 2016. In November 2020, Treasurer Sabree won reelection to his second full term, which began on July 1, 2021. In June of 2021, Treasurer Sabree was sworn into office by his daughter, Michigan’s 36th District Court Judge Aliyah Sabree. His wife, Badriyyah Sabree, held the Qur’an during the ceremony. His two sons, their wives and children were also present. This was indeed a proud family moment.

Among the guests who witnessed the ceremony was former Chief Judge of the 36th District Court, Adam Shakoor, who, in 1981, became the first Muslim Judge in the United States and North America. He served as Detroit’s Deputy Mayor during the last term of Mayor Coleman Young. Judge Shakoor was also a mentor for Judge Aliyah Sabree. He currently owns a private law practice in Detroit.

Treasurer Sabree’s family roots are in Louisiana and Arkansas. He was born in Chicago, where his family lived until he was 2 years old. The family relocated to Detroit, Staten Island, NY, and then finally settled back in Detroit. After obtaining his Law Degree, Treasurer Sabree opened his private law practice in Detroit. He later served as Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel for Wayne County and then five years as the Deputy Treasurer. Other than a brief stay as the resident Imam in Wichita, Kansas, he has spent most of his career in Detroit.

Wayne County is located in Southeast Michigan



and has a population of approximately 1.8 million people. It is the twelfth largest county in the nation. Detroit, Dearborn, Hamtramck, Plymouth, Redford, Grosse Pointe, Canton, Southgate, and Livonia are among the 43 communities supported by Treasurer Sabree and his staff. Treasurer Sabree is charged with the receipt, custody and disbursement of all County funds, which includes the collection of delinquent taxes and all property tax foreclosure related activity. He serves as the Chief Investment Officer of Wayne County and is responsible for investing all county funds.

Treasurer Sabree is very proud of several major initiatives that had never been implemented before. By showing empathy and treating his constituents

with dignity and respect, he greatly improved the relationship between his office and the general public. Treasurer Sabree established partnerships with banks and non-profit organizations to provide financial counseling as well as grants to assist residents struggling to avoid property tax foreclosure. Hundreds of thousands of taxpayers saved their homes by enrolling in delinquent tax payments plans established by the Treasurer. He implemented a text message warning system to advise homeowners of their upcoming payment due dates and established a strong social media campaign. To increase convenience for his constituents, over one hundred tax payment kiosks were established throughout the county and an online payment

process was made accessible so that people can make payments anytime. He leads his office as they continue to provide and improve upon these services to his constituents. One of the results of his initiatives was reducing property tax foreclosures from 28,000 to 3,800, an 86% reduction. Treasurer Sabree’s advice to young people, and especially young Muslims, who may be interested in public service and elected office is:

Get involved in your community.

Find an area, paid or volunteer, in public service that you like.

Work with a mentor on a political campaign to learn the dos and don’ts of running for political office.

Learn to help others, with the right intentions. “The Best of you is he who is most benefit to others”, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Treasurer Sabree is a dedicated member the Detroit Muslim Center and Masjid Wali Muhammad. He is also a strong supporter of Muslim youth education at Al-Ikhlās Training Academy in Detroit and other local institutions. His role ranges from being the main speaker at special events to helping clean up after programs or rolling up his sleeves to wash dishes if needed. Treasurer Eric Sabree is a highly respected and greatly appreciated member of the Muslim and general Michigan community.

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# Understanding The CDC's New Masking Guidelines



by Abdul El-Sayed

*This post was originally published on The Incision*

The sound you hear? It's the collective groan of 163 million vaccinated Americans now being told to put their masks back on.

For many of us, this moment feels like coming to the end of that 5K our friends dragged us into, only to be told that it's actually a 10K (and could be a marathon) — and realizing that our friends aren't even running.

I probably don't have to tell you this but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised its mask recommendations for vaccinated Americans yesterday. They are now recommending that vaccinated people wear masks indoors in counties with "substantial or high" rates of COVID-19 transmission (defined as more than 50 cases per 100,000 people over the past seven days). Right now, that's more than 60% of all counties — and growing.

Let's cut into the science, ethics, and public communications at play here.

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We've been hearing a lot about the "breakthrough" infections among vaccinated people. This is alarming, particularly if

you've assumed that you are immune to infection because you're vaccinated. But vaccines aren't designed to keep you from ever getting infected, they're designed to keep those infections from making you symptomatically ill.

Even then, despite the fact that the vaccines are safe and effective, illness can still squeak by in some people. For example, data shows us that two doses of the Pfizer vaccine is 88% effective against the delta variant. That is, of course, less than 100% — a small number of people who have received their vaccines may yet develop symptomatic illness.

However, that 88% is substantial. And getting vaccinated is the single most important thing one can do to protect themselves from COVID-19.

But there's a broader question: If a vaccinated person contracts the virus and is not symptomatic, is there a risk that they pass it on? Recommendations that vaccinated people no longer had to wear masks indoors was based on previous studies that showed vaccinated people were less likely to transmit the virus — likely because of low viral loads in their nasopharynx.

But this literature didn't include delta. Could the new, more transmissible variant be

passed on by vaccinated people? That was the question the CDC needed to answer.

Unfortunately, the CDC found that delta is, indeed, transmissible by vaccinated people after analyzing viral loads among vaccinated people in transmission chains from new delta outbreak investigations. The presence of vaccinated people at all in these transmission chains was a major indication that they can, indeed, transmit the virus to others.

Hence, the new recommendations.

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How should we be thinking about this?

The ethics here are anything but straightforward. First, there's the fact that the most important thing people can do to protect themselves (and others) is get vaccinated. If more people just got vaccinated, the health risk of infection among those to whom vaccinated people could pass the virus would be far lower. In some respects, asking vaccinated people to wear masks again is about protecting many people who are choosing not to protect themselves — putting a double burden on the vaccinated.

That said, many people can't be vaccinated — like chil-

*Cont. on page 14*

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## India Has A Hard Time To Accept Kashmir As An International Dispute: Dr. Fai



Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General, Washington-based 'World Kashmir Awareness Forum' said that the assertion of Indian Ambassador to the U.N., T.S. Tirumurti, "I think it's important to recognize that the issues relating to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are internal affairs of India" was factually and legally wrong statement. The fallacy advocated by Ambassador Tirumurti deserves some clarification.

To begin with, under all international agreements, accepted by both India & Pakistan, negotiated by the United Nations, and endorsed by the Security Council, Kashmir does not belong to any member state of the United Nations. If Kashmir does not belong to any member state of the United Nations, then the claim of the distinguished Ambassador that Kashmir was an internal affair of India does not stand.

Secondly, Ambassador Tirumurti may remember that it was here at the United Nations that Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General said on August 8, 2019, that "The position of the United Nations on this region (Kashmir) is governed by the Charter of the United Nations and applicable Security Council resolutions."

Dr. Fai added that the people of Jammu & Kashmir who have a defined historical identity, are at present engaged in a mass struggle to win freedom and release from the foreign occupation of their land. This struggle is motivated by no bigotry or ethnic prejudice; its aim is nothing but the exercise of the right of self-determination explicitly agreed by both India and Pakistan.

"The idea that the dispute over the status of Jammu and Kashmir can be settled only in accordance with the will of the people, which can be ascertained through

the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite, was the common ground taken by both Pakistan, and India. It was supported without any dissent by the United Nations Security Council. There was much in these submissions that were controversial, but the proposal of a plebiscite was not. This is clear from the statement made on January 15, 1948, by Indian delegate, Sir Gopalasawami

Ayyangar, at Security Council,"... Whether she [Kashmir] should withdraw from her accession to India, and either accede to India or remain independent, with a right to claim admission as a member of the UN – all this we have recognized to be a matter for unfettered decision by the people of Kashmir after normal life is restored there," Fai maintained.

Fai warned that it is not the inherent difficulties

of a solution, but the lack of the will of the world powers to implement a solution, that has caused the prolonged deadlock over the Kashmir dispute. The deadlock has meant indescribable agony for the people of Kashmir and incalculable loss for both India and Pakistan. The peace that has eluded the South Asian subcontinent should be made secure, Fai concluded.



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# Delta Variant Makes Up 83% Of New U.S. Coronavirus Cases

By: Zaid Aleem

According to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the more infectious Delta form of Covid-19 currently accounts for 83 percent of sequenced samples in the U.S., CNN reports.

“This is a dramatic increase, up from 50% for the week of July 3,” Walensky said in a Senate committee hearing.

Health experts have said the Delta variant is more transmissible than any other identified variant so far. “We should think about the Delta variant as the 2020 version of Covid-19 on steroids,”

Andy Slavitt, a former senior adviser to Joe Biden’s Covid Response Team, told CNN last week.

“It’s twice as infectious,” Slavitt said. “Fortunately, unlike 2020, we actually have a tool that stops the Delta variant in its tracks: It’s called vaccine.”

However, vaccination



rates in the country have plateaued. According to CDC data, less than half of the U.S. population is completely vaccinated, and the majority of those who aren’t vaccinated are not likely to be vaccinated, according to an Axios-Ipsos survey released Tuesday. According to the poll, which was conducted July 16 to 19

and included a nationally representative sample of 1,048 general population American adults, a quarter or less of those who are unvaccinated indicated they would be inclined to obtain the vaccination under specific circumstances.

According to the most current data from Israel assessing the per-

formance of the Pfizer/BioNTech mRNA vaccine against the Delta variant, the vaccine is 64 percent effective in avoiding infection and 93 percent successful in preventing severe illness and hospitalization.

According to other research, both the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are effective

against the Delta variant. And, according to U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy on CNN’s “State of the Union” on Sunday, 99.5 percent of deaths occur among the unvaccinated, a number reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention earlier this month.

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# White House Cracks Down On Social Media Misinformation

By: TMO Staff

According to White House communications director Kate Bedingfield, the White House is considering whether social media platforms should be held legally liable for spreading false material under Section 230, a statute that protects corporations’ freedom to control the content, according to CNN.

The argument over Section 230 has gained fresh urgency in recent days, as the government has urged social media firms to be more aggressive in combatting disinformation. Websites that monitor user-generated material are granted legal protection under federal legislation, which is part of the Communications Decency Act.

“We’re reviewing that, and certainly they should be held accountable,” Bedingfield told MSN-BC when asked about Section 230 and whether social media companies like Facebook should be liable and open to lawsuits for publishing false



information that causes Americans harm.

President Joe Biden, Bedingfield said, also believes it is “the responsibility of the people creating the content.”

“It is a big and complicated ecosystem, and everybody bears responsibility to ensure that we are not providing people with bad information about

a vaccine that will save their lives,” she said.

Both Biden and then-President Donald Trump have advocated for revoking Section 230, but for different reasons.

Biden has long raged against the rule, claiming that it protects social media firms from disinformation, while Trump claims that it restricts

and suppresses conservative views. Meanwhile, proponents of the clause say that it safeguards free expression. Legal experts, politicians, and officials at the Federal Communications Commission have all labeled Trump’s attempts to utilize the executive branch to modify how Section 230 applies to tech corporations illegal.

Many of the same legal issues challenge the Biden administration now. However, only Congress has the authority to modify the legislation, and while US politicians are unified in their opposition to Big Tech, Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill disagree on how Section 230 should be amended.

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# Op Ed: Taliban's Emirate Is A Slap In The Face Of Islam

by Dr. Aslam Abdullah

Except for two, all Afghan national soccer players are beardless. Under the Taliban, they would have to grow beards of a specific size or get ready for punishment. What about putting turbans on heads while playing?

The Taliban of Afghanistan want to establish the Islamic Emirates. They want to rule the country according to the Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad. So the world would now understand Islam through its policies and practices. But, on the other hand, many Muslims would challenge their understanding of the Quran and the Sunnah. So a new conflict ensues, and the never-ending war in Afghanistan would prolong its dance of death.

Some diktats the Taliban have introduced in areas they control are already creating conflicts. The champions of Islam want men to grow their beards, stop smoking and give the names of their girls over 15 and widows under 45 so that eligible Taliban men can marry up to four wives. They would have the option to divorce anyone at will to marry the replacement.

Smoking is injurious to health, so are marijuana, hashish, and poppy seeds.

Afghanistan is a significant global producer of methamphetamine. The country's opium poppy fields are the source of the majority of the world's heroin. Now, crystal meth could eventually become just as big an industry.

The Taliban do charge the drug traffickers a tax. They earn \$4m a year from Bakwa district alone, though they deny links to the drugs trade. They make over \$2 billion annually through drug trafficking. Their diktat to ban smoking while profiting from drug trafficking is a slap in the face of their faith. It is a mockery of every value that Islam promotes for human dignity. If they are sincere in their efforts to ensure a healthy, smoke-free Afghanistan,



they should begin with a ban on narcotics.

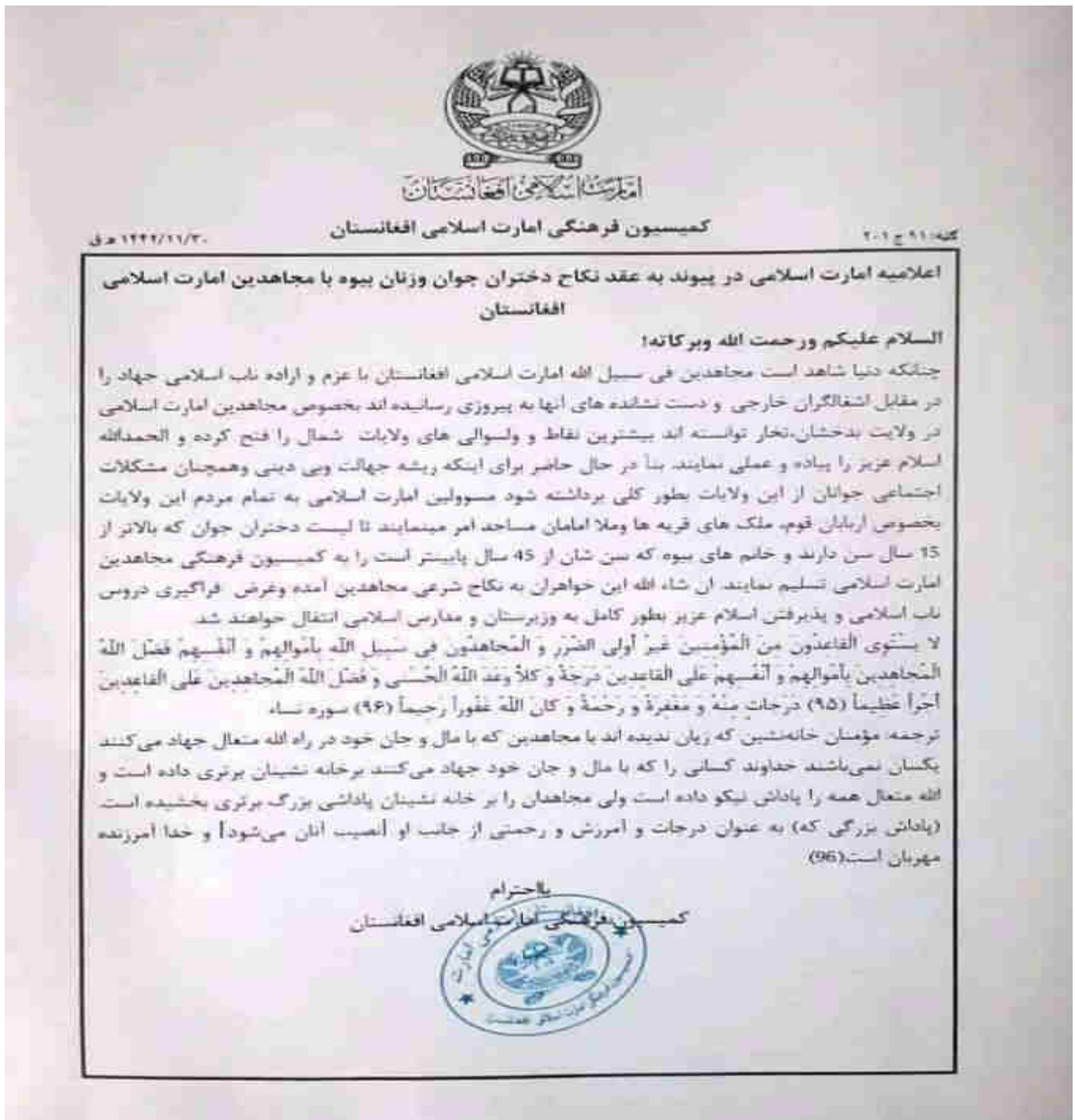
Their diktat about the

growing beard is ridiculous. Beard is not a criterion to determine one's commitment to divine

guidance. Muslims learn about facial hair not from the Quran, but through hadith – or sayings –

attributed to Prophet Muhammad. One such

*Cont. on page 12*





# ‘You People Bring Your Children Everywhere’: Flight Attendant Harasses Muslim Woman



**By: TMO Staff**

Despite how progressive things may seem, “flying while Muslim” remains the same: often an unpleasant experience. In a recent incident, a Muslim woman who disposed of a dirty diaper in a garbage bin on a Mesa Airlines flight said an attendant not only called her after the flight but harassed her and said she had been placed on a no-fly list.

According to NBC News, Farah Naz Khan, a doctor from Seattle, was flying to Montana from Texas with her husband and daughter on July 9 when she had to change her daughter’s diaper halfway through the flight. Khan said she had just changed her daughter’s diaper at a diaper-changing station at the back of the plane and placed the soiled diaper in a bag and then in a garbage bin before returning to her seat when a flight attendant asked her if she has just disposed of a diaper.

According to Khan, the attendant not only said it was a “biohazard,” but yelled at her and told her to fish the diaper out of the trash.

“When I walked back to the front holding my

diaper wipes container and, like, the pad that we used to change my daughter’s diaper on, the flight attendant accosted me and said: ‘Did you just dispose of a diaper back there? That’s a bio-hazard.’” The attendant allegedly didn’t let Khan speak, choosing instead to only yell at her.

After feeling humiliated for going through the trash, Khan asked another flight attendant for a garbage bag to put the diaper in—that’s when the second attendant told her she had not done anything wrong in the first place when disposing of the diaper the way she did.

According to NBC News, Khan filed a customer service incident report when the plane landed, but that wasn’t the end of it. Hours after the plane landed, Khan got a call from an unidentified number on her phone—it was the flight attendant. It was alarming that the flight attendant called her personal number, but then he called not once but four times.

“He said, ‘Due to a bio-hazard incident on the plane today, we’ve placed you on the no-fly list,’” Khan told NBC News.

“This made me very

angry, because I suffered the humiliating experience,” she said. She added that the call lasted almost four minutes and was “just profanities.”

“You people bring your children everywhere. Don’t you know that some people just want a peaceful flight and don’t want to listen to your effing children?” The flight allegedly said according to Khan. Khan posted the incident on Twitter using the hashtag #racism.

Here are more details about what happened on my recent @united flight #airtravel #united #racism #antifamily @CNN @JesseKIRO7 @seattletimes @NBCNews @ABC pic.twitter.com/EJ64pogUG7

— Farah Naz Khan (@farah287) July 10, 2021

Khan, who identifies herself as a South Asian Muslim American, told NBC News she was unsure what the attendant meant by “you people,” but knew it was derogatory. The flight attendant even had the audacity to call her daughter “obnoxious.”

“It sounds completely unbelievable because no one believes that someone would do this over a diaper. My husband tried

to reason with him but he kept going. We tolerated almost four minutes of verbal abuse. I took the phone back and hung up on him,” Khan told The Houston Chronicle.

“I’m a Brown woman. I’m a woman with a family, my husband has a beard and his name is Muhammad. Did he see that and equate it with him being Muslim?”

While Khan didn’t believe she was actually placed on a no-fly list, the experience itself was disturbing. She told NBC News that she has been contacted by United Airlines by Monday afternoon about the incident. United Airlines contracts with Mesa, the airline she flew, for some regional flights. While United wouldn’t tell her the flight attendant’s identity, how he’d gotten her phone number, or whether he’d been disciplined over the incident, it said it would investigate the incident. No one from United offered her or her family an apology.

“It violates every level of professionalism, but it’s also a violation of this woman’s privacy and her civil rights,” said Imraan Siddiqi, the executive director for the Washington State chapter of the

Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Following the incident, Khan is considering suing to keep her family safe. “I’m legitimately worried about this person,” she said. “Over a diaper if he’s able to call me and say those things, what else could he be capable of?”

While United confirmed that Khan has not been put on any list, Khan, who described herself and her family as “pretty avid travelers,” said she never wants to fly United again. She added that she has never had an issue disposing of dirty diapers on flights in the past.

The federal No Fly List is different from those implemented by independent airlines. According to TSA spokesperson Patricia Mancha, the list is determined by the FBI and shared with TSA, which simply follows the list during airport screening operations.

“The airlines have their own no-fly list and they determine who is put on that, based on passenger actions,” Mancha told the Chronicle in an email.





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# ‘Can I Ask You Why You Hate Me?: Muslim Woman Faces Harassment In A Grocery Store For Wearing Hijab



**By: TMO Staff**

Social media is at it again. In the last few years, viral videos on social media have exposed racism and other incidents of violence. In a recent incident, a Muslim woman used the social media platform TikTok to share an experience in which a white woman harassed her in the line of a Santa Monica, California, grocery store.

The Muslim woman—who was wearing a hijab, or headscarf—was approached by a white woman who asked if she was in line. Despite being behind her in line and now knowing she was in line, the white woman allegedly attempted to put her items in front of the Muslim woman onto the conveyor belt. The woman then continues to harass the hijabi, pointing at her hijab and calling her names including “fucking crazy” and

“privileged.”

“Clearly this lady was angry because I’m Muslim,” TikTok user zardanainjali wrote in the video’s onscreen text. She asked the woman to stay at least 6 feet away from her, but the woman refused to do so. The Muslim woman, identified as Zardana Bashir, noted that what hurt her the most was her son was witnessing his mother getting “verbally abused by a racist ... I’m posting this to expose a racist,” she added.

“I’m so embarrassed for breaking down and crying but no child should see their mom being attacked,” she said.

The video quickly went viral after being shared on the r/PublicFreakout subreddit of the Reddit website. “Can I ask you why you hate me just because I’m wearing a headscarf?” Bashir asked

during the encounter, hoping she could change the woman’s mindset. The woman not only harassed Bashir about her headscarf, but allegedly made comments for her to “go back to her country.”

The woman refused to acknowledge her racism, claiming she did nothing wrong.

“I’m not doing anything wrong here, there’s just a fucking Middle Easterner who thinks she’s fucking privileged,” the woman yelled.

In addition to sharing the video depicting the harassment she faced, Bashir posted another video in which multiple customers and employees came to support her and confront the white woman about her racist behavior, including one Black woman who said Bashir was being racially profiled.

“All of these people came to my rescue they stood up to her and this moment proved to me that humanity is great,” Bashir said in the video’s onscreen text. Bashir called them “heroes.”

Bashir shared that not only did the cashier help her from the beginning, but a couple also offered to walk her to her car.

“I want you guys to find them, I want you to blow up their page, and give them all the love and support you can,” she said.

While Bashir received hate from this white woman in the grocery store, the number of those who came to her aid in addition to the thousands of others online who expressed their support for her give hope to humanity.

“They got no problem if a woman has a hat, hoodie, or anything else covering

her hair, but the second it’s a hijab all of a sudden it’s unacceptable,” one TikTok user commented on the video.

Bystanders speaking out against abuse is so important in such incidents. Multiple victims of hate violence have shared that without bystanders’ presence and support, community fears only increased.

“I love how everyone came to defend her. So many times people ignore it and leave hijabis to fend for themselves,” another TikTok user wrote.

Despite the trauma and hurt she faced, Bashir stayed positive, and the caption of her viral video proves this. “Thanks to you #Karen i’m going to wear my #hijab loud and #proud,” Bashir captioned the viral TikTok video, which has received over 750,000 views since being posted on July 25.

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# The Delta Variant And The 4th Wave Of Covid In South Asia



**By Mahvish Akhtar**

According to BBC, The World Health Organization (WHO) recently deemed the Delta variant, which originated in India, as the “most transmissible of the variants identified so far.” Director of Emergency Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore, Dr. Gabe Kelen, explained what a Variant exactly is, “as more people are infected, the range of mutations widens, though the vast majority of them go nowhere and don’t affect anything, every now and then, the mutation can occur in a segment of the virus that makes it either more infectious or more deadly.”

Studies suggest that the Delta variant is between 40 to 60 percent more transmissible than the Alpha variant first identified in the U.K. The Alpha variant of the virus is already 50 percent more contagious than the original virus first found in Wuhan, China. Some of India’s immediate neighbors, such as Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, have seen surges in infections since May due to this new variant.

In Afghanistan, the cases were at an all-time

high in June, and the country’s health minister, Wajid Majrooh, said that 60% of cases in the capital city of Kabul were due to the Delta variant. The WHO has also recently reported rising case numbers in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Mongolia as well. According to the health ministry, testing showed that nearly 60% of cases in South Asia in the past three weeks were due to the Delta variant.

Experts have claimed that in Pakistan and the theory can be applied to many other countries in the region surrounding the country; this is primarily due to negative publicity Coronavirus has gotten through word of mouth and media. Social media has not helped in this regard either. Combined that with a shortage of vaccines and people’s unwillingness to get the shots where it is available has made this a fast-spreading virus which is hard to control at the moment. The country has vaccinated just 0.8% of its total population.

Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Shoro of the Pakistan Medical Association believes it could take up to a decade

to vaccinate every citizen if the country continues its vaccination drive at the current pace. He also mentioned that even health care workers are still waiting to be vaccinated. Pakistan’s federal minister, Asad Umar, of planning, development, and special initiatives, announced on May 4th that more than 164,000 people had been vaccinated in a single day, and roughly 200,000 people the following day. Additionally, the pace to be registered had also been picked up, he emphasized.

Mr. Umar, who is also the head of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), thinks that Pakistan needs to brace for the fourth wave of coronavirus. “Two weeks ago, I tweeted that our artificial intelligence models are showing the possible emergence of a fourth wave. Now there are clear early signs of a fourth wave starting.” He believes this is happening because of Pakistan’s poor compliance with the standard operating procedures and the spread of the Delta variant.

He also said that stricter measures will be taken from now on. From Au-

gust 1st, no one will be allowed to travel without a vaccination card.

NCOC also said that “Visitors to tourist spots aged 30 and above will not be allowed without a vaccination certificate.” Hotel bookings without vaccination certificates will be banned as well.

The national total of confirmed cases has reached 969,476, while the death toll has touched 22,520, according to the Ministry of National Health Services. Asad Umar’s message came a day after Pakistani Prime Minister Khan issued a similar warning to his people in a video.

According to WHO, there have been 134,653 confirmed cases and 5,791 deaths, 934,463 doses of vaccine administered in Afghanistan. The number of new cases reported each day drags between 1200 and 1500. This is the third wave of covid for Afghanistan, and it could not have come at a worse time for the war-torn country. The testing is extremely limited within the country as well; the Ministry of Public Health reports that there have only been over 500,000 tests since the start of the pandemic for a popula-

tion of about 40 million.

According to a United Nations report on June 16th, almost half of the people being tested in recent weeks, which is 42%, were positive for coronavirus. This suggests that the virus is widespread among the public. The UN report also stated, “confirmed cases of and deaths from COVID-19 are likely to be underreported overall in Afghanistan,” this is due mainly to lack of testing and lack of a death registry in most places.

Delta variant has been a massive cause for concern in Afghanistan as well. Afghan Minister for Public Health, Wahid Majrooh, told reporters in Kabul that out of 19 samples examined in national laboratories yesterday, nearly 60% tested positive for the delta variant and the rest for the Alpha variant that originated in Britain. “It shows the delta variant of the coronavirus is rapidly spreading in Afghanistan, and this is the main reason for the rise and criticality of the cases,” Majrooh specified in his nationally televised Press conference.



Cont. from page 1.  
Khizr Khan

Star father famous for criticizing Donald Trump, for a post with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. “Khizr Khan, founder of the Constitution Literacy and National Unity Project, is an advocate for religious freedom as a core element of human dignity,” the White House said in a press release. According to the Freedom Act of 1998, those selected to be a part of the commission are considered individuals with distinguished knowledge and experience in “fields relevant to the issue of international religious freedom, including foreign affairs, direct experience abroad, human rights, and international law.”

Khan made headlines for criticizing Trump for his hateful rhetoric towards Muslim Americans during Trump’s 2016 campaign for presidency— a speech considered one of the most memorable of the year. A Pakistani-born graduate of Harvard Law School, Khan gave the emotional speech in response to Trump’s hateful comments on Muslims while paying tribute to his son’s military service during the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Khan’s son, U.S. Army Capt. Humayun Khan, was killed on the battlefield in Iraq in 2004. According to The Washington Post, he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for Valor after a fatal attack in which he saved the lives



of hundreds of soldiers and Iraqi civilians.

During his speech, Khan held a pocket-sized copy of the Constitution and questioned whether Trump had ever read it. “Have you even read the US Constitution? I will gladly lend you my copy. In this document, look for the words ‘liberty’ and ‘equal protection of law,’” Khan said. “Have you ever been to Arlington Cemetery? Go look at the graves of the brave patriots who died defending America — you will see all faiths, genders, and ethnicities. You have sacrificed nothing and no one.”

“If it was up to Donald Trump,” Khan said of his son, “he never would have been in America.”

His wife stood beside him during the incident and Trump later attempted to target her, falsely accusing that Ghazala Khan did not speak at the event because her Islamic faith restricted her from doing so. But it wasn’t just once—being unable to handle someone calling him out, Trump consistently attacked the grieving family, even drawing

criticism from his own supporters while doing so.

When asked about the news of his nomination and two-year appointment, Khan told BuzzFeed News he “wasn’t surprised at all” and sees the role as an opportunity to give back to his country. “I had looked forward to playing a role where I could contribute to the well-being of my country.” He added that his role will allow him to speak about the challenges to religious tolerance in both the U.S. and abroad and work on the issue beyond just naming it by engaging with communities and identifying how religious tolerance is connected to economic prosperity.

“We need the world to see how we disagree yet remain faithful to our country,” Khan said.

Khan also expressed his passion for the Constitution and hopes for it to be taught “more commonly,” especially in the context of human rights and freedoms.

“I don’t mean to say that it’s a perfect document ... there’s still a lot of

that needs to be done,” Khan said. “I reflect on that, and I become more formed in my belief that ... we must speak, we must share, we must learn from each other because it teaches us with equal dignity, freedom. Something that we all cherish.”

Ultimately Khan hopes he can focus his energy in this role towards peace and tolerance. “Instead of naming and shaming, I believe in engagement,” he said, emphasizing the “future of mankind” lies in peace and tolerance.

While Khan wasn’t surprised he was nominated for his position, he did express that he wanted to thank his son for it. In a statement to BuzzFeed News, he referred to his son as a “perpetual burning candle to guide us.” “That light is the light of service to others regardless of position, regardless of place, regardless of capacity,” Khan said. “We all can serve others. As long as we do that, we create a better community, a better nation, a better humanity.”

Khan’s nomination was made alongside four

other similar appointments and nominations. He will serve as one of six commissioners tasked with defending the freedom of religion abroad and reviewing cases of infringement on religious freedoms. “Today’s announcement underscores the President’s commitment to build an Administration that looks like America and reflects people of all faiths,” the White House said in a statement Friday.

Alongside Khan, Biden also announced his plans to nominate Rashad Hussain of the National Security Council to be ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom and Deborah Lipstadt, renowned Holocaust scholar at Emory University, as special envoy and with the rank of ambassador to monitor and combat antisemitism.

According to the White House, Hussain would be the first Muslim to serve in this position.

“The nominations of Rashad Hussain and Khizr Khan represent an important step in the Biden Administration’s commitment to build a government that reflects the diversity of our nation. It is important that American Muslims — and particularly Muslim youth — see themselves and their values reflected in our nation’s government,” Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR), said in a statement.

Cont. from page 7.  
Taliban’s Emirate

hadith stipulates: “Cut the mustaches short and leave the beard.” It is an ambiguous statement, and it is not an obligation. If it were so, most Imams would have their mustaches cut. It was a recommendation to his companions in a society where everyone sported a beard. Many non-Muslims at the time of the Prophet had longer beards. No single inci-

dent exists in any book of hadith that the Prophet punished anyone for not cutting mustaches and trimming his beards. The diktat of the Taliban is their subjective preference imposed in the name of God. If they punish anyone for flouting the rule in the name of religion, they will commit coercion. Islam strictly prohibits intimidation in its name.

The ruling on reporting girls over 15 and widows under 45 to the Taliban

for marrying them to its fighters are the most offensive of all three dictates. No one can marry a girl without her free consent. Women are not the state’s property or any religious group, as they have a right to education and decide on their life partner.

It is the obligation of those who understand the Quran and the Sunnah to challenge these Taliban’s diktats.

If the Taliban want to establish the Islamic

Emirates, they must ensure the following.  
Religious freedom to all  
Human dignity to all, women included.  
Human rights for all  
Education to all  
Withdrawal of the offensive diktats  
Representation of women in all aspects of national life  
Banning the narcotics  
Ensure that the law and not the barrel of guns protect justice.

An economy that guarantees self-reliance  
A health system that secures the healthy future  
Islam and monotheism make sense only when human dignity and rights are under the protection of the law. But, unfortunately, what The Taliban has done so far violates everything Islam stands for on human dignity and rights.



*Cont. from page 1.  
Noor Mukadam*

ed. I physically recoil when imagining what Noor experienced. And then my heart shatters that this happened to the best human on earth. I don't understand what justice can be served because on July 20, 2021, the world has lost the purest, brightest, and most innocent light.

My mind then does this thing to help me cope, it flickers to a series of flashback scenes:

The first flashback is the first time I met Noor at the age of seven, 20 years ago at my 13th birthday in Enniskerry, Ireland. She is closer in age to my little brother's age – they play together.

We are all at the Mukadams' house for a dinner party. Noor is 10, her sister Sara and I are in our late teens. Sara keeps "Noorah" (her fond nickname for her) close by. Noor listens to our teenage exchanges. There is never a question of whether she should be included in our conversations; she is part of it all and never judges.

Years go on, and we are now young adults. Noor is a young teenager. She comes to us for advice and remains sweet and kind.

My last in-person flashback flutters in front of me. It's Sara's wedding in Karachi in December 2011. I am 23, Noor is 18. We are laughing. We spend those nights perfecting dances and helping Sara with anything she needs for the wedding.

Noor Mukadam

Noor and Sara Mukadam.

After that it has only been social media messages, some Skype video calls. The last message I received from Noor was after my grandfather passed just last month. The most empathetic message was from Noor saying how my grand-



father was everyone's grandpa in Ireland. And how sorry she was.

As I continue to make sense of this nightmare, I think back to these flashes of memories. To me, she has always been a little sister and Sara, an older sister. Not once do I remember Noor getting angry. She always remained kind and sweet. I never saw her talk back to anyone, speak ill of anyone, or be rude to anyone. She had many friends, wherever she went in the world. People instantly liked her for being herself. That is a testament to her family and upbringing. Despite being moved all over the world, all three Mukadam children are unassuming, generous, and genuine.

My mind then switches back to anger, and bile rises in my throat. The anxious knot that has not left my body for the past month continues to tangle. I begin to think of how a monster and his enablers came to be. How they could get away with

something like this?

The root cause, in my opinion, is actually a combination of many things that have enabled an endemic of female murders in Pakistan. You have a society built upon misogyny, a toxic patriarchy, and a disregard for women's rights—whether it be in the small rural village, or in this case the upper echelon of "high" society.

It would be remiss to note that this endemic does not just occur in Pakistan. To compare, one in four women has experienced physical abuse in the United States, while this number is estimated to be as high as three in five women in Pakistan. The cycle of letting "boys will be boys" along with other issues of social classism and elitism in Pakistan needs to stop, which gives a certain upper-class society the audacity to think they are above the law.

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A few days ago, a Pakistani-American friend

messed me regarding her own domestic abuse case against her husband. Despite law enforcement and the American judiciary system being aware of the situation and hospital records documenting the abuse, the court is still not paying this case attention. Countless other friends have come out with their emotional scars since hearing Noor's story.

For centuries, women have been groomed by both men and women to act a certain way. We are told to be careful with our tone, we are paid less, and we have careers but end up carrying the mental load of running a home. The weight of being a woman is such a heavy burden to carry. As a mother of a daughter and son, I shudder to think what the future is for my children. Our species has regressed with there being such little accountability anymore. We have become desensitized to violence.

What is next to fix this

crisis? The first step to me is clear. Start at home. I want all of you to stand up to the next man you see disrespecting a woman. I want you to hold your sons, fathers, husbands, boyfriends, and male friends accountable. I have been having these conversations with my own husband, brothers, and family members.

As for the evil Zahir Jaffer, he should suffer the same consequences that my innocent sister Noor had to endure for there to be true justice. Even that is not enough. His parents and those working for the Jaffars should also be held accountable. This elite, upper echelon family needs to be brought down.

The brightest light was taken from us, and we will never be the same. The only way to truly avenge our light is to ignite the world and create change.

**If you want to write for TMO, Please email:  
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Cont. from page 1.  
Muslim Doctor

ing, what he faced after was far worse. Not only did a crowd of anti-maskers confront and scream at him, but they also inundated Dr. Khan with “racist, xenophobic, and threatening behavior.”

Khan, a public health doctor in Missouri’s St. Louis County, was invited by the council to their July 27 meeting to speak about the importance of enforcing a mask mandate in the area. According to county statistics, more than half of the population is unvaccinated—a troubling statistic in light of the county’s surge of infections from the delta variant.

“After my presentation was completed, I tried to leave the chamber but was confronted by several people who were in the aisle,” Khan wrote in a letter to the council chairperson, Rita Days. The letter was shared on Twitter.

“On more than one occasion, I was shoulder-bumped and pushed. As I approached the exit and immediately outside the chambers, I became surrounded by the crowd in close quarters, where

members of the crowd yelled at me, calling me a ‘fat brown c-t’ and a ‘brown bastard.’”

“After being physically assaulted, called racist slurs, and surrounded by an angry mob, I expressed my displeasure by using my middle finger toward an individual who had physically threatened me and called me racist slurs,” Khan said in his letter.

Khan told CNN he wrote the letter because he “was shaken up and completely distraught” over the way the meeting was conducted and the way he was “subjected to taunts and racist abuse and threats.”

Having more than 25 years of experience in his field, he was called in to let others know about the dangers of the delta variant, but instead was questioned by council members, including one who emphasized to the crowd that he was “not from this country.”

“Dr. Khan, we certainly have heard of your background before, but most here have not. Can you tell us why you are called Doctor Khan? Are you a physician in the United States?” Councilmember Tim Fitch asked during

the meeting. While Fitch claimed the question was an “attempt to familiarize the audience with Khan’s credentials,” it was clearly an attempt to depict Khan as the “other.” Not only did those attending the meeting try to distract Khan with comments about his background, they also mocked his accent and impersonated the character of Apu from the animated series, The Simpsons.

After Khan’s letter went public, racist council members—including Fitch—tried to shame Khan for the way he responded; however, they failed to acknowledge the way he was treated. Khan is human and what he faced was disgusting. Any person would be upset if they faced violence, racial slurs, and mockery while speaking as an invited guest in a public forum.

In an interview with CNN, Khan said: “While I regret the momentary loss of composure, it was at the end of a long, exhausting evening in which I had been subjected to ridicule, humiliation, and all sorts of abuse, not the least of which was somebody getting in my face and

yelling obscenities as I left. ... And so, I let my composure slip, as a human being who’s flawed, and I regretted that afterwards, but I certainly don’t apologize for it because nobody, nobody, public official or not, should ever have to put up with that sort of nonsense no matter what the circumstances.” Separately, Khan told BuzzFeed News that the entire experience left him “shaking,” adding that he had “never experienced anything like that in the more than 25 years that I’ve been in public health service.”

Regardless of the number of cases the county faces, and Khan’s pleas to keep the mask mandate in place, the council voted to end it 5-2. A video shared on Twitter showed the crowd break out in cheers after the council’s vote.

Khan’s experience highlights the anger and chaos some counties have faced as mandates for mask-wearing return nationwide. Unfortunately, people of color and immigrants have been the highest target for this anger, with many individuals reporting incidents of violence and hate speech directed

toward them. Multiple incidents have been reported in which both healthcare officials and individuals have been subject to violence due to COVID-19 misinformation and racism.

Despite facing this violence and racism, Khan stands strong in his mission to educate the council on public health issues. “I simply ask that you take appropriate steps to investigate these matters, prevent similar events from happening in the future, and ensure that a safe and orderly environment be created for any future testimony me or my staff are asked to provide to the Council,” Khan wrote.

In a statement to The Washington Post, Khan noted that public health officials need to be able to educate and protect their communities from health risks and should not be painted as tyrants or outsiders.

“Please do not tie our hands behind our backs,” he said. “Please do not seek to take over pandemic emergency response from us. ... We are not the enemy.”

Cont. from page 3.  
Masking Guidelines

dren and people who are immunocompromised. And the responsibility that we, as a society, have to protect them is immense. Yet again, the most important thing we could do for those who can’t be vaccinated would be to get those who can be vaccinated actually vaccinated.

Finally, there remains a real risk of symptomatic infection as the risk of anyinfection increases. And as delta continues to rampage through our society, the risk to vaccinated people, while far smaller than the risk to unvaccinated people, grows.

Personally, of course, I find it deeply frustrating that our forward progress on the pandemic is being delayed, even rewind, by people who are choosing not to take a safe and effective vaccine. And yet, when it comes

to my personal choice, I will be following the CDC’s recommendations and wearing my mask indoors in places where transmission is high. After all, the risk to my own health — even if far lower because I am vaccinated — is real. Perhaps more importantly, I want to minimize the risk to my daughter, who cannot be vaccinated.

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The message.

As I wrote in these pages last week, a return to universal mask mandates (which this is not quite yet) carries some real messaging risks. On-again, off-again policy risks undercutting public trust of public health authorities, reducing compliance today and risking potential compliance in the future.

The CDC and other public health authorities are also misunderstanding their influence. High transmission communities are high transmis-

sion precisely because their residents have already chosen to ignore CDC recommendations about masks and vaccines. What makes the CDC think this new guidance is going to change that? The more likely scenario is a return to masking in low transmission communities out of sheer caution with little change of behavior in the communities where it matters most.

This isn’t the first time the CDC’s made this mistake. Indeed, after the revision of these guidelines, one has to ask about the wisdom of previous guidance that eliminated indoor mask requirements for vaccinated people in the first place. Without any verification, the policy gave those who didn’t want to vaccinate or wear masks room to free ride without doing either.

Finally, asking vaccinated people to wear masks undercuts the perceived

value of getting vaccinated among vaccine holdouts, which doesn’t help the most important goal we have right now: getting more people vaccinated.

Share

What we need now.

The changing recommendations here are probably best understood as a correction of a misstep the CDC made earlier. But for many Americans, gauging our progress against this pandemic, they feel like a step in the wrong direction.

The right direction is far more simple: Public policy needs to make being vaccinated easier and remaining unvaccinated harder.

Toward that end, President Biden is reported to be announcing a vaccination mandate for all federal employees that would require them to either be vaccinated or undergo regular testing. Though it’s short of the

broader vaccine verification that we need, it sets a precedent for employers around the country that could follow suit. Far more than these mask recommendations, policy that lays down the gauntlet on vaccinations is far more likely to move the needle on vaccinations, reduce transmission, and get us back on the path to a post-pandemic future.

But let’s not forget that delta originated during a COVID-19 spike in India this spring. And this variant is unlikely to be the last. There are still 20 more letters in the Greek alphabet — and lots more evolution this virus can do. Unless we’re as serious about getting vaccines abroad as we are about ensuring vaccinations at home, we’re setting ourselves up for the potential for more waves. It is a global pandemic, after all.





# AFMI



The last year was a tough one for many people around the world. For the second time in a row, we will be observing Ramadan in a pandemic. Millions have been left destitute & without income because of the pandemic & its effect on the Indian economy.

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- ❖ Provided meals to thousands of families across India.
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- ❖ Provided ventilators to hospitals in Gujarat.
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