

FAUCI:

“ there are two aspects: one, we know that the delta variant is considerably more efficient in transmitting from person to person than the original alpha variant that we have been dealing with. Number one, the delta variant is the totally dominant variant now in this country, more than 80-85% and in some regions 90+%; but even more importantly it is clear now that when there are breakthrough infections namely people who are vaccinated but still get infected with the delta variant, which happens because no vaccine is 100% effective, we've learned, clearly now without a doubt, that people who are vaccinated get a breakthrough infection actually have enough virus in their nasopharynx that they can actually transmit it to other people and have documented transmitted to other people. So because of that, the virus has really changed and that has really triggered the change in the CDC guidelines, so right now the way you correctly said that even if you are vaccinated you need to wear a mask in indoor public settings, in the areas that have a high degree of transmissibility namely the orange and red areas of the CDC designation. “

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“Yeah, it's thoroughly understandable but there really is a clear explanation of it, and here are the data: when you go back 60 days or two months ago, when you look at the level of virus in the nasopharynx of a person who's vaccinated and gets a breakthrough infection, it was considerably less than the level of virus in the nasopharynx of an unvaccinated person. The data were clear. Now that we have a delta variant that has changed the entire landscape, because when you look at the level of virus in the nasopharynx of a vaccinated person who gets a breakthrough infection with delta, it is exactly the same as the level of virus in a unvaccinated person who's infected. That's the problem, so those data were very compelling and that triggered the change in the CDC guideline “

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“right, Chris you nailed it, because that's exactly what it is. That the antibody response, the immune response that your body makes that needs to block virus in the upper airway needs to be much more powerful than the immune response that protects your lungs. In other words, you need a lower level of protection, the lung is more easily protected than the upper airway. We know that from animal studies, it's very very clear.”

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“well, Chris, it doesn’t have to be. If the overwhelming majority of the people in this country get vaccinated. We could nail this down by just crushing it; the problem we have Chris that you and I have discussed multiple times on your program, right now we have a hundred million people in the United States who are eligible who are not getting vaccinated, that’s the problem”