



Fauci Now Says Pandemic Is 'By No Means' Over & 'Herd Immunity' Is Out Of Reach

Description

Fauci has been flip flopping again.

Rounding off a week of controversial comments with an appearance at the National Press Club on Friday, Biden's chief medical advisor tried to give an overview of where, he thought, the covid pandemic currently stands.

Fauci insisted that the pandemic wasn't over less than a day after he said it was. He then claimed his comment were 'misconstrued'

His attempts to explain the science are becoming a bore to more and more people now.

[Yahoo news](#) reports: On Tuesday, he told "PBS NewsHour" that the [United States appeared to be "out of the pandemic phase,"](#) irritating some public health experts who found the prediction cavalier. He [revised those remarks in a Washington Post interview](#) the following day, assessing the nation as moving "into a transitional phase, from a deceleration of the numbers into hopefully a more controlled phase and endemicity."

Fauci also said Tuesday evening that he [would no longer be attending Saturday's White House Correspondents' Dinner](#), citing an individual risk assessment but offering little insight into what factors had gone into that decision.

Fauci, who serves as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the chief medical adviser to the president, clarified his view of the pandemic once again on Friday. “By nomeans is it over,” he said. “We still are experiencing a global pandemic.”

Having led the government’s response to the AIDS crisis early in his career and later personally treating Ebola patients, Fauci issued a warning for the future. Even as the coronavirus may be receding in parts of the world with high vaccination rates, it is doubtless that another pandemic awaits, perhaps in the near future.

“We absolutely must be perpetually prepared for the inevitability of another pandemic,” he said. The Biden administration has asked for billions of dollars [to enhance surveillance of emerging viruses.](#)

New variants of the coronavirus will continue to emerge too, Fauci said, frustrating the goal of “herd immunity” that he and others once held out, since new strains — like the currently circulating BA.2 subvariant of Omicron — have shown an ability to evade immune protection, though without making people sicker than the original coronavirus.

“We’re not going to get classical herd immunity” from the coronavirus, Fauci predicted at the press club, a reversal of the seemingly long-ago days when he and others predicted that vaccination benchmarks would signal a defeat of the coronavirus.

“It’s very difficult to really get a strong classical herd immunity” — of the kind the United States enjoys from polio and measles — “when you have immunity that wanes and a virus that, in fact, does not stay stable,” he said Friday. “And you have an anti-vax movement, which prevents many of the people from getting vaccinated.”

by Niamh Harris

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