

# Fauci Warns of Coronavirus Resurgence if States Don't Adhere to Safety Guidelines

*Stephanie Armour*

5-6 minutes

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Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious-disease expert, warned the nation risks a resurgence of [coronavirus infections](#) should states fail to remain vigilant as they reopen their economies.

"When I look at the TV and I see pictures of people congregating at bars when the location they are indicates they shouldn't be doing that, that's very risky," Dr. Fauci said in an interview Tuesday. "People keep talking about a second wave," he added. "We're still in a first wave."

President Trump, who is [planning a campaign rally in Tulsa, Okla.](#), this weekend, has attributed more cases to an increase in testing across the country. "Our testing is so much bigger and more advanced than any other country (we have done a great job on this!) that it shows more cases. Without testing, or weak testing, we would be showing almost no cases," Mr. Trump tweeted Monday.

While more testing does result in more cases, Dr. Fauci said, higher percentages of positive tests in many states “cannot be explained by increased testing.”

With [coronavirus infections increasing](#) rapidly in a number of states, Dr. Fauci said a relaxed approach to public-health measures that reduce risk and spread poses significant hurdles to state and federal efforts. Throngs of people have gathered in many parts of the country, often without social distancing or mask wearing, prompting new warnings from state leaders of a return to shutdowns or possible punitive actions.

A White House spokesman didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday said some areas could face new shutdowns and [bars could lose liquor licenses](#) if regulations on reopening weren’t followed. He said the state had received 25,000 reports of reopening violations, predominantly in Manhattan and the Hamptons on Long Island.

In Texas, the alcohol and beverage commission is warning restaurants and bars they can be closed for not following social-distancing measures such as reduced seating capacity.

Videos of people in bars in Arizona have circulated online, with Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego saying she is concerned about some people packing into nightclubs.

Only about a third of Americans who have left their house in the past seven days said they always wore a mask in public, according to a Gallup poll in mid-April. Women and Democrats were most likely, based on the survey.

In Minnesota, 88% of respondents said they avoided public and crowded places last month, according to a poll by the University of Chicago for the Data Foundation. This month, the number had dropped to 69%.

A public battle has broken out over the wearing of face masks, with some people in Orange County, Calif., protesting against a previous mandate on masks in public. Mr. Trump has repeatedly not worn a mask, but some public-health officials are reasserting messages about reducing risk.

“Just a reminder—wearing a face covering is a small inconvenience that provides big benefits, and gives us our best chance for an effective and lasting reopening of America,” Surgeon General Jerome Adams tweeted last week.

Public-health experts say many states launched reopening efforts before meeting federal guidelines, such as a 14-day drop in cases, and have eased shutdowns even though they lack sufficient testing and contact-tracing abilities.

Dr. Fauci said some states have adhered to a slow reopening and others have said “to heck with it, we’re just going to reopen.”

He said the choice shouldn’t be either a strict shutdown to curtail coronavirus or abandonment of smart strategies to reduce risk and spread, adding that schools should decide on reopening in the fall based on specific case activity in the region at the time.

“Going back to school needs to be decided by the county, city and state where you are,” he said. “It’s very different if you’re in a city having an infection or a county having very little infection.”

Adjustments could include rooms being cleaned after morning classes end and before another group of students enter for afternoon classes, Dr. Fauci said. Some classes could be held outside when the weather is nice, he said, and vulnerable students with pre-existing conditions could be supported through virtual learning.

**Write to** Stephanie Armour at [stephanie.armour@wsj.com](mailto:stephanie.armour@wsj.com)

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