



As governors roll out new restrictions, Biden and Pence each rule out national lockdowns

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Many Americans will spend Thanksgiving under new pandemic restrictions put in place by their governors.

As the United States surpassed a quarter million COVID-19 deaths, Democratic and Republican governors across the country implemented stricter rules for wearing masks and indoor gatherings.

This, as Vice President Mike Pence and projected President-elect Joe Biden said during separate press conferences Thursday evening that there will be no national shutdown.

Cato Institute Senior Fellow Thomas Firey spoke to Sinclair about the disconnect between the states and federal government on this action.

“The president and Congress simply don’t have that power under the Constitution to nationally shut down the economy,” Firey said.

Firey has doubts about government-mandated lockdowns at any level. In a recent paper for Cato, Firey wrote that government action earlier in the pandemic was "wasteful at best and harmful at worst."

"Though a number of those failures can be attributed to an especially inept Trump administration, they can be found across the political spectrum, at different levels of government, and among both the virtuous and dishonorable," Firey wrote.

Firey explained how he thinks leaders should address the crisis.

“If we’re going to have government interventions, and this is probably a case where we need some, it is after all a social emergency, a public emergency, we should look for the least costly interventions that have the most bang for the buck and have the most effect on reducing the spread of the virus,” Firey said.

On Thursday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warned Americans against Thanksgiving travel.

On Friday afternoon, President Donald Trump retweeted Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, who wrote: "Don't lockdown the country. Don't impose curfews. Don't close schools. Let Americans decide for themselves. And celebrate Thanksgiving."

Jordan's words and Trump's endorsement of them directly contradict the advice of government health officials including Dr. Anthony Fauci.

"We actually need to double down on the public health measures," Fauci said during a White House Coronavirus Task Force briefing Thursday.

Fauci said if Americans continue to wear masks, avoid indoor gatherings and follow other CDC guidelines, we'll be able to hold things off until the vaccine comes."