



As Delta cases rise, mask mandates could discourage new vaccinations, says doctor

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The White House says it will wait for the CDC to change guidelines before making any decisions to urge vaccinated Americans to mask back up, as Delta variant cases are starting to rise.

“I think some local areas are going to,” said Dr. Jeffrey Singer to The National Desk’s Jan Jeffcoat. “I think it's important for people to remember that if you’re fully vaccinated with the mRNA vaccines ... you're 80% protected against any symptomatic Delta, and 96% protected against getting sick enough from Delta to go to the hospital and possibly die.”

Dr. Singer says he isn’t in favor of a government-imposed mask mandate.

“I think if we have a government-imposed mass mandate, that's going to discourage the remaining unvaccinated people from getting vaccinated because they're going to say well what's point, nothing changes,” said Dr. Singer.

According to Dr. Singer, 75% of those who are infected by the Delta variant are over the age of 65.

“If you're one of those people over 65, particularly if you have pre-existing comorbidities, or if you're an immunocompromised person, for example, then you might want to wear a mask indoors, regardless of whether there's a mandate,” said Dr. Singer.

Some school districts are planning to require that students wear masks when they return to classrooms in the fall, while other areas are going without.

“The CDC says that vaccinated children don't need to wear masks indoors, but the American Academy of Pediatrics just recently said that all children age two and up need to wear masks indoors,” said Dr. Singer. “There are a lot of very highly respected epidemiologists and infectious disease experts who think that with very young children there's such low risk of getting COVID, spreading COVID, or getting a severe case of COVID, that they don't think it's necessary.”