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## Vaccine Mandates Work; but not for all.

Despite the [worries](#), vaccine mandates for health care workers in NYS gave us the [results](#) we needed to hear – in short, vaccine mandates [work](#). Vaccination status is impacting [hiring/firing](#); yet the absence of mandates in some parts of the country will simply prolong the pandemic for **all** of us. The mandates however need to be [stronger](#). “The Biden administration needs to give companies and jurisdictions incentives to require proof of vaccination for entry into restaurants and other businesses” -as in most countries in Western Europe. Or to put it simply – the article continues: “That would send the message of ‘You don’t get to enjoy the privileges of pre-pandemic life unless you’re vaccinated; Right now, the vaccinated are being held hostage by the unvaccinated. The vaccinated are having breakthrough infections and the unvaccinated are endangering those who cannot get vaccinated, like kids.”

In the meantime, most are willing to be vaccinated – I had one patient last week who just needed to be “nudged”; we just need to [reach them](#). Instead, politicians in states with low vaccination rates are [dismantling](#) public health services and [discouraging](#) vaccines. They are influencing patients of mine who believe that COVID is a government conspiracy. The impact: [Alabama](#), which has one of the country's [lowest](#) COVID vaccination rates, recorded more deaths in 2020 than births — a first in state history. Racial disparities [persist](#); “children of color have borne the brunt of the pandemic's impacts as they have faced disproportionate infection and hospitalization rates, more barriers to vaccination, and increased threats to mental, social and academic growth.” Overall, COVID has [impacted](#) all aspects of life of, particularly, elderly people.

Masks [continue to be critical](#), despite Abbott/DeSanctis and co. “Not only is layering important to improve filtration but so is fit. A CDC-recommended technique for improving the fit of either a cloth or surgical mask [is knotting the straps and tucking](#) the sides. A mask is generally a good fit [if you feel warm air coming through the front of the mask](#) as you inhale and exhale.” Precautions are truly needed as this reporters [personal story](#) attests who also gives his recommendations.

I am continuing to fight for universal vaccine access, but the reality despite [Biden’s efforts](#), most of the world is still not vaccinated and [we need to keep pushing](#) – among many others AND is working on an event in Washington towards the end of October. Instead, the booster, even with the [confusing](#) decision-making, will be/is available in the US.

Finally, I’ve focused on, broadly speaking, peace through health (PtH) throughout my career. It is the entire underlying premise of AND’s political work. The COVID pandemic with its resultant disastrous [health care](#) (including [rationing](#) in low vaccination states, [impact on health care workers](#), and [deaths](#)) and [economic](#) impact, has negatively impacted PtH. It has polarized the U.S. population to such an extent that the U.S. at a minimum is sliding into [“populism, cronyism and corruption”](#) while experts,

such as the historian Robert Kagan, believe that the [constitutional crisis has arrived](#). PtH can impact these unfortunate scenarios by working with both individual and organized health professional societies. We need to do more. We will continue to fight to allow the federal government to [negotiate drug pricing](#) and other health care initiatives that have the potential of bringing people together. With your input AND together with other similar efforts can make a modest but substantive difference.

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