

## INTERVIEW: Dr Anthony Fauci interviewed by Jim Acosta (CNN)

This interview was conducted: [Full Interview](#)

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**Jim Acosta:** There still seems to be a messaging problem. Ah, the week began with the **CDC**<sup>1</sup> director, as you know, warning of **impending**<sup>2</sup> doom, and ending with the CDC saying it's fine for fully vaccinated people to travel within this country without tests or quarantines. Can you help us **clear up**<sup>3</sup> the confusion? Do you agree that there might have been a little confusion over the past week, for people who are still wondering what is safe and what's not, if I've been vaccinated?

**Dr Fauci:** Well, the point that Dr Walensky was making early in the week, when she made that statement, was that the thing that we're concerned about, although as I get to **in a sec**<sup>4</sup>, things are going extremely well with regard to the vaccination. But, what we're seeing, after that big peak we had around the Christmas holidays and New Year's, when it started to come down, it **plateaued**<sup>5</sup> at a disturbingly high level of number of cases per day.

And one of the concerns we have is that when you plateau and then start **inching up**<sup>6</sup>, as we are doing, and you mentioned just a moment ago, in a few of the states, in fact several of the states, there's the danger, Jim, of having the resurgence and another big surge up. Like just yesterday, we had over 60,000 new cases in a day. That's disturbing. That's what happened in Europe and is happening, and Europe, for the most part, is going through another disturbing surge. So the point she was making is: **we're not out of the woods**<sup>7</sup> yet. So don't declare prematurely victory, because we're not there yet. That's the sobering news.

The good news is what you mentioned, just a moment ago. We're getting 3 to 4 now, today was 4, million doses per day. So it's kind of like a race between getting people vaccinated, and the more people on a daily basis you get vaccinated, the better chance you have of blunting or preventing that surge that we're all concerned about.

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<sup>1</sup> CDC: Centre for Disease Control

<sup>2</sup> Impending: (adjective) used to refer to an unwanted event that is going to happen

<sup>3</sup> Clear up: (phrasal verb) to solve or explain something

<sup>4</sup> In a sec: in a second

<sup>5</sup> To plateau: to stabilize at a particular level

<sup>6</sup> To inch up: (phrasal verb) to increase by small degrees

<sup>7</sup> To be out of the woods: (idiom) to be out of danger or free from difficulty