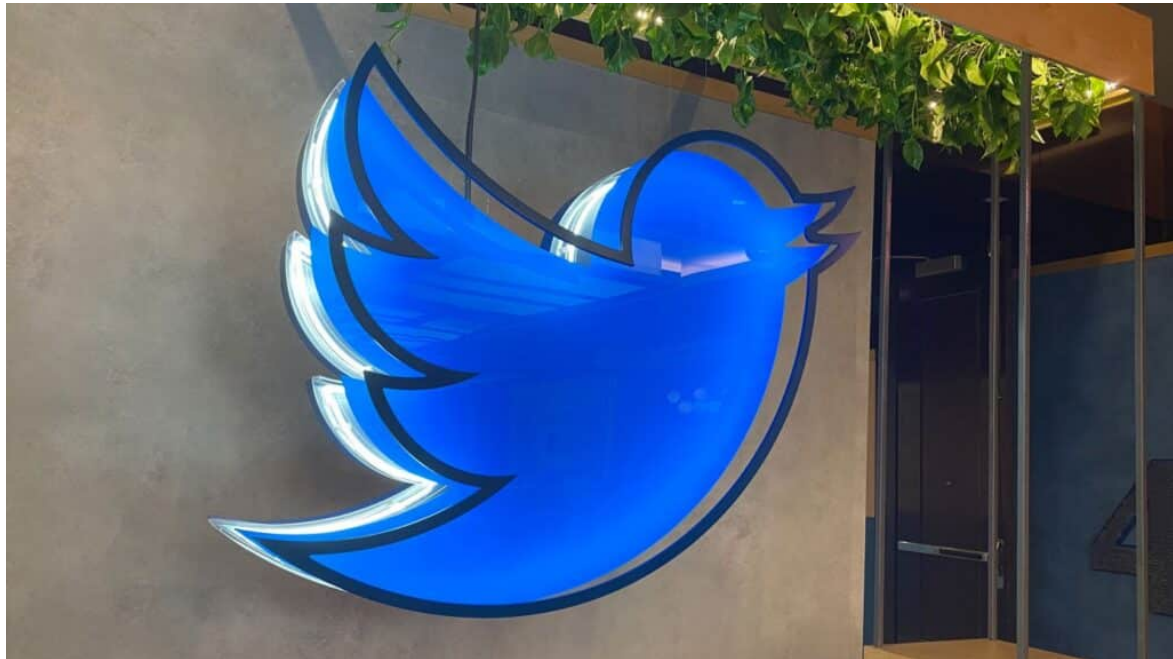


# Twitter Exposes Global Censorship Policies As Applied To Americans



This blockbuster expose by Project Veritas demonstrates that Twitter is a global company with global censorship policies that are being applied to Americans. Thus, Twitter sets itself up as a friend of globalization and an enemy of populism. □ TN Editor

The investigative journalism group Project Veritas recently published insider footage of Twitter's Legal, Policy, and Trust Lead discussing plans for Twitter's expansion of moderation enforcement on a global scale. Progressive Twitter exec Vijaya Gadde described applying the company's "global approach" to censorship to Americans including political leaders, reaffirming the company's belief that President Donald Trump's posts were "inciting violence and having real-world harm."

In a video recently published by Project Veritas, Twitter's Legal, Policy, and Trust Lead Vijaya Gadde discusses the details of the social media site's plans to expand its censorship of "harmful speech" on its platform.

Gadde discusses the company's plans to permanently suspend accounts promoting "conspiracy theories," and reaffirms that Twitter believes that

President Trump's tweets were "inciting violence and having real-world harm."

The video footage posted by Project Veritas founder James O'Keefe is available on their website and can be seen below:

At one point while discussing new censorship plans, Gadde states: "In other places around the world where we've seen violence unfold as a result of either misleading information or coded rhetoric. So a lot of our learnings here have come from other markets so in that sense, you know, we do feel like it is — this is our global approach."

In a recent article discussing Twitter's suspension of President Trump, Breitbart News reported that Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey was relaxing on a private island in French Polynesia when he received a phone call on January 6 from Twitter's top lawyer and safety expert Vijaya Gadde, the notorious leftist who previously appeared alongside Dorsey on the *Joe Rogan Experience* podcast.

Gadde informed Dorsey that Twitter had suspended President Trump's account temporarily to prevent him from posting further statements relating to the U.S. Capitol protests that could incite violence. Dorsey was reportedly concerned about the decision but he had delegated moderation decisions to Gadde and generally deferred to her on account suspensions and did so again.

The *New York Times* recently reported that last Wednesday, Twitter employees gathered in a virtual meeting to discuss the decision to remove President Trump from the platform, many were grateful that Twitter had taken action while others simply wanted to leave the "Trump era" behind, but many were very emotional over the situation and cried.

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# Germany Sets Up “Refugee Camps” To Hold COVID Rule Breakers



When power turns to madness, governments have no restraint in creating isolation camps for detractors, as in Germany. The Technocrat destruction of liberty, freedom and the world's economic system is tumbling to conclusion, but will the citizens of the world mount an effective resistance? □ TN Editor

Germany's worst Covid rule breakers will be held in detention centres under new proposals being drawn up by a number of state governments.

The move forms part of the country's efforts to stop the spread of the more contagious mutant strain of the virus detected in the UK last month.

In the eastern state of Saxony, people who ignore lockdown measures will be held in a cordoned-off part of a refugee camp being built next week.

State authorities have said the centre will only be used for those who

repeatedly breach self-isolation requirements.

A similar scheme will be used in neighbouring Brandenburg, while in northerly Schleswig-Holstein rule breakers will be held in a part of a juvenile detention centre.

The southwestern state of Baden-Württemberg will reportedly use rooms in hospitals.

The country's regional governments have powers to hold people who flout lockdown requirements under the Disease Protection Act, first passed by the federal parliament in March, Die Welt reports.

Germany won praise for its early handling of the pandemic, though has seen cases rise in recent months.

It is now seeing around 18,000 people test positive a day, and has so far recorded 47,440 deaths.

The government is also keen to avoid the spread of a mutant strain of the virus first detected in Britain in December.

The strain is thought to be up to 70 per cent more contagious than the original, and to be a contributing factor to a recent surge in cases in the UK.

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## **The Empirical Case for a Mask Mandate Lacks Scientific Grounding**



President Biden's "100 Day Mask Challenge" Executive Order was signed on January 20, but it is not backed by any credible science. Rather, it is about continuing the psychological intimidation and control of American citizens. □ TN Editor

Last fall, the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation (IHME) published a headline-grabbing study with a politically appealing claim: if Americans would simply mask up when they ventured out into public, over 120,000 lives could be saved by the beginning of next year. As Joe Biden takes office later this week, he is widely expected to use executive orders to enact a 100-day long national mask mandate.

Biden's action is directly premised on the claims of the IHME study, which he has repeatedly alluded to in his public commentary. But is the science behind this claim sound?

As I documented last fall, the IHME's projections rested upon a simple data error. The IHME model begins from the assumption that only 49% of Americans were currently wearing masks in public. Increase the mask adoption rate to between 85% and 95%, it stands to reason, and you'll save over a hundred thousand lives by reducing the spread of Covid-19. A national mask mandate, the authors implied, would do the trick.

The IHME's projections had a crucial problem however. The IHME took its 49% adoption figure from a months-old outdated survey at the beginning of the pandemic. As of late September when they made their

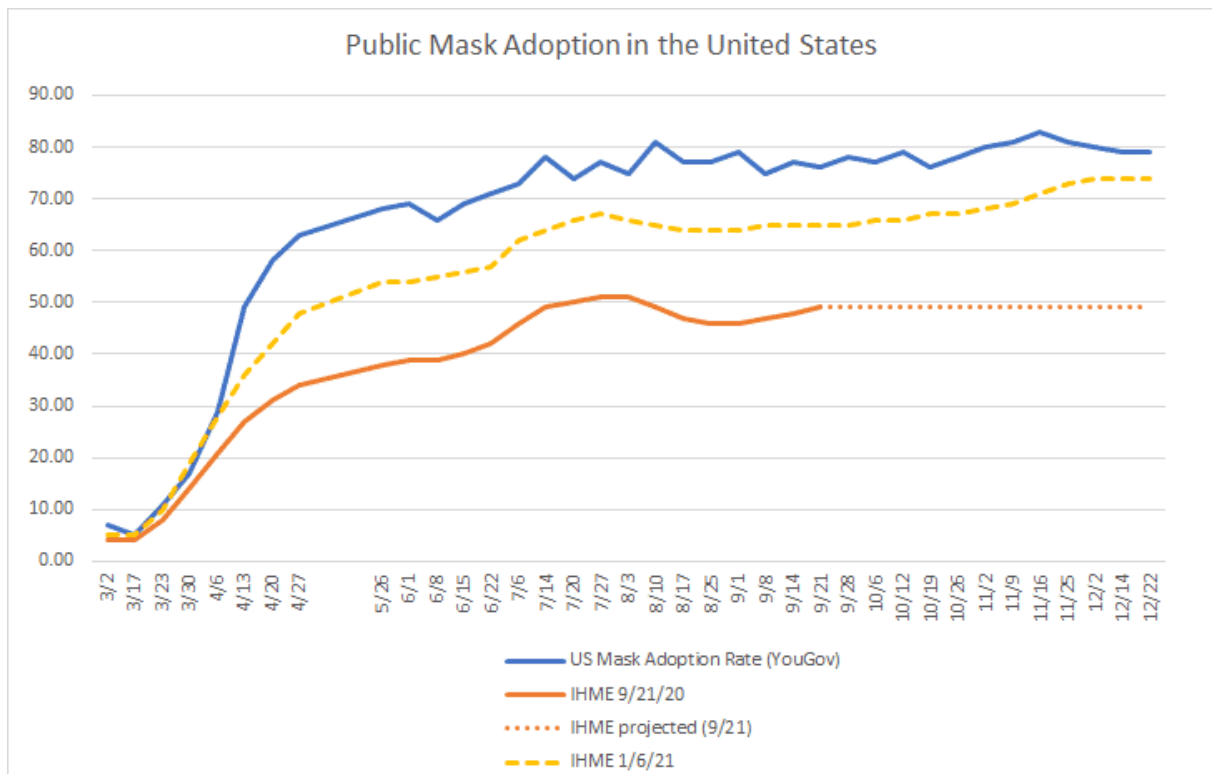
projections, US mask adoption hovered at 80% nationwide. Instead of nearly doubling mask use rates, a national mask mandate would only increase compliance by about 5 to 15 percentage points. The number of lives that the mandate would save, it turned out, had been vastly exaggerated in the published report.

The IHME's director took exception to my criticism, though notably he did not dispute any of my math. "[Magness] is correct that our estimate of mask-wearing rates has increased" since the study's publication, explained Christopher J.L. Murray in a letter to the *Wall Street Journal*. New data from the summer and early fall confirmed an increase in public mask adoption rates. Yet Murray continued: "[h]e is incorrect to suggest that this weakens the case for public policies that require masks."

In the roughly two months since this public exchange, the IHME's mask model has undergone a curious transformation. Murray and his team quietly updated their figures to reflect the higher and more realistic mask-adoption rates. Furthermore, they extended these corrections retroactively to their model's projections from the summer months.

The chart below shows how the IHME mask model has shifted over time. The blue line depicts the actual US mask adoption rate, as tracked by the YouGov survey. It shows that US mask adoption rapidly increased in the spring until hitting about 80% in mid-July. From July until the present, it has held stable at the 80% level (parallel surveys by the CDC, Pew Charitable Trust, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Kaiser Family Foundation confirm these findings).

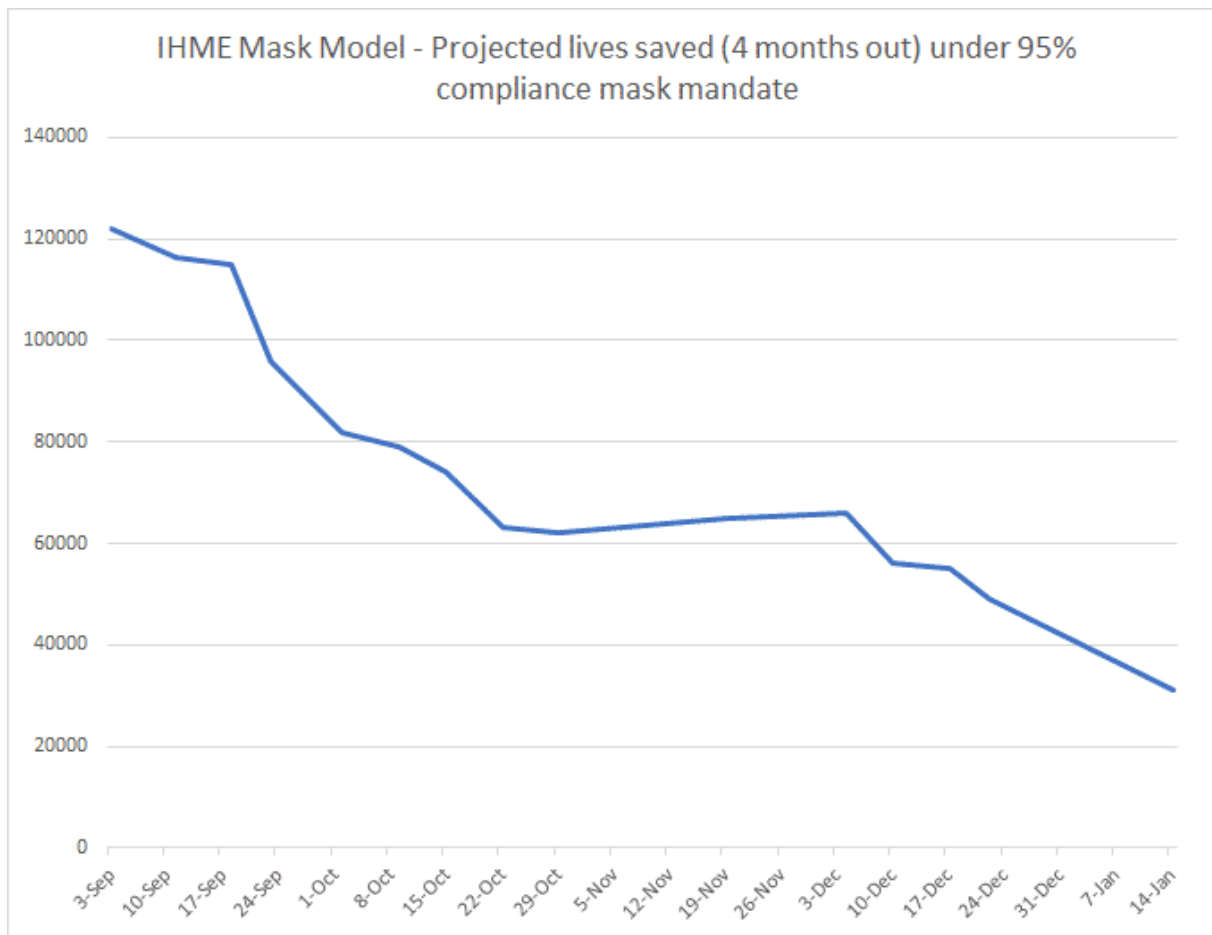
The orange line shows the IHME's mask model and forecast on September 21, which is the version it published in the journal *Nature-Medicine*. The yellow line shows the IHME's subsequent upward revisions as of January 2021, which are now finally starting to converge with reality. Their estimates still fall slightly short of what the aforementioned surveys show, but as of January 18<sup>th</sup> the IHME model assumes that 76% of Americans wear masks in public - just shy of the 80% level.



While the IHME team is to be commended for correcting their model to better reflect reality, these adjustments also mean that comparatively few additional gains remain to be had from bumping the mask-adoption rate upward to 85 or 95%. The most recent of the independent surveys - a study conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation in December - even reports that 89% of Americans always or almost always wear masks in public, suggesting we are already at or near the targeted “universal adoption” threshold of the IHME model.

The ongoing corrections to the IHME model have severely dampened the promised benefits of a national mask mandate. The figure below shows the IHME’s “lives saved” forecast under universal mask adoption with 95% compliance, as projected for 4 months out from its release date.





Back in September, the IHME model projected over 120,000 lives would be saved by January under a mask mandate. Now it projects a much smaller 31,000 lives saved by the end of April.

When reading these ever-shrinking projections, keep in mind that US mask adoption patterns have not meaningfully changed since the mid-summer of 2020, before the IHME even released its first “lives saved” estimate. It has stayed constant at roughly 80% throughout this entire time. The only apparent changes are the input data for the IHME model, which they updated in the wake of my critique to better approximate reality. The effect is to reduce the IHME’s “lives saved” projection at the 4-month mark to only one quarter of its headline-grabbing claim from back in the fall.

These changes do not mean that masks lack effectiveness at the margins. They remain a precautionary hygienic response - particularly in certain indoor venues and around vulnerable people. Rather, the IHME’s model adjustments confirm what several of us have been pointing out since the mask mandate movement began in earnest last year. The main



gains from masking have already been reaped. Americans rapidly adopted them last summer and have continued to use them at consistently high rates ever since. Adding a new national mask mandate on top of this practice will bring little if any *additional* benefit to what voluntary adoption already achieved, though it may foster a false hope in the exaggerated claims of an obsolete and erroneous model.

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