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RFK Jr's Rise Gives Anti-Vaxxers a Voice But Ignores Disproportionate Death Rate in States Without Vaccine Mandates



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By Robert Weiner and Gene Lambey

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is running his campaign for the 2024 Presidential election. His family is part of this nation's legacy, and he is a top anti-vaxxer. Kennedy running as an Independent encourages anti-vaxxers to flock to him. He picked his Vice President candidate Nicole Shanahan, claiming "significant health issues" after taking the COVID-19 vaccine. The family's opposition announced today to the RFK candidacy is the political piece--but his position on vaccines is outright dangerous scientifically.

Republican governors in states including Ohio refused COVID-19 vaccine mandates despite health officials proving they are safe. Where were the Republican scientists giving the correct information on vaccine mandates? The [CDC](#) reported almost 1.2 million Americans dying from COVID-19. Almost 7 million have been hospitalized. This was life or death.

In June 2023 a nationwide survey from the University of South Florida stated that only 49 percent of Republicans, were "very "or "somewhat confident" that COVID-19 vaccines were safe which contrasts with 88 percent of Democrats. A Yale study highlighted partisanship over COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy, leading to unnecessary deaths. Public officials feared mixed messaging on COVID-19 vaccine by Republicans sharpened attitudes toward vaccines.

Ohio, Florida, and other anti-vax-led states were left unprotected and uninformed against COVID-19.

Sherri Tenpenny, a Cleveland physician and conspiracy theorist, [spoke](#) in 2021 at the Ohio House of Representatives on how COVID vaccines caused Ohio patients to be "magnetized" and falsely claimed patients died after receiving COVID-19 vaccines. Her medical license was removed.

Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo, appointed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2021, discouraging Floridians from receiving COVID-19 vaccines. His purported study showed, "stratified analysis for cardiac related death" through mRNA vaccinations "increased risk in males, especially among males aged 18-39," which Ladapo wrote in 2023. He discouraged at-risk Floridians over 65 to not get the vaccine. Ladapo was [ridiculed](#) for his claims by many serious health officials.

In September 2021 the Biden administration came out with COVID-19 vaccine and mask mandates. Biden called for vaccine mandates for employees at large U.S. businesses. The Supreme Court [halted](#) the mandate in January 2022 but allowed health workers to adopt it.

The administration has "been patient." Biden stated that unvaccinated people's refusal "cost all of us." He emphasized unvaccinated people "cause a lot of damage" and endanger all Americans.

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The Ohio Department of Health [reported](#) Ohioans having more than 42,299 deaths as of November, 2023. Ohio has the sixth highest [percentage](#) of long COVID-19 cases reaching 30 percent.

Gov Mike DeWine(R-Ohio) advised businesses and entertainment venues to [close](#) down at the start of the pandemic, sparking conflict with Republicans. He refused the vaccine mandate proposed by the Biden administration. DeWine signed a bill in July 2021 temporarily blocking schools from setting vaccination mandates for the upcoming school year.

According to Florida's Department of Health, a [report](#) was released showing over 90,000 deaths to COVID-19 since 2020. Out of all U.S. states, Florida had the twelfth highest percentage of long COVID-19 [cases](#) being 27.6 percent. Gov. DeSantis neglected making vaccine mandates, lied on implementing them and bragged on being the first state to remove mask mandates. DeSantis opposed vaccinations for Floridian children under the age of five once it was approved by the FDA and other health organizations, claiming lack of testing and clinical trials for young children during a press [conference](#) in June 2022.

People must listen to reliable health officials when a health crisis occurs. The problem is to make sure the officials are using real data.

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