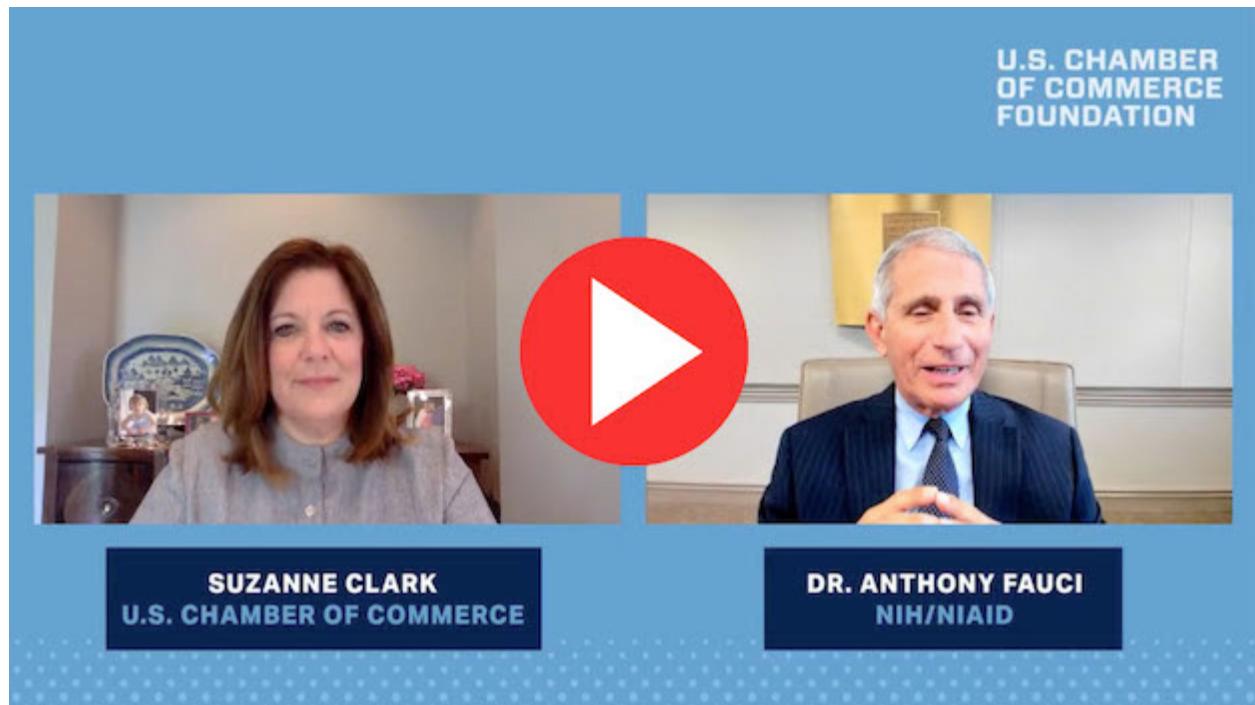


# Dr. Fauci: Wearing Masks and Heeding Public Health Guidance is Key to Reopening Businesses and the Economy



Last Friday, the U.S. Chamber Foundation hosted a special [Path Forward](#) program featuring a conversation with Dr. Anthony Fauci and Chamber president Suzanne Clark. Dr. Fauci offered his perspectives on the state of the pandemic, prospects for a vaccine, reopening schools, and what businesses should be doing to prepare for the coming months.

Dr. Fauci summed it up when he said, “the business community is so essential to everything we do, even our health. To have a healthy community, you have to have a healthy business community.”

Reopening the economy means that people will come into contact with other people. Dr. Fauci again pressed Americans to wear masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. “I would urge the leaders—the local, political and other leaders—in states and cities and towns to be as forceful as possible in getting your citizenry to wear masks,” he said.

“We know that masks are really important. And we should be using them – everyone.” he emphasized.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Chamber sent a [letter](#) to the White House and the National Governors Association asking for a national mask standard, implemented locally.

School systems across the country are considering how and when to reopen their schools. Education and childcare are essential for the well-being of our children and to America’s economic recovery. In many cases, working parents will not be able to return to work in person if their schools and childcare programs are unable to reopen. Dr. Fauci addressed this critical issue for American families:

If you look at the downstream consequences of keeping children out of school, namely the impact on the kids themselves, the impact logistically on the parents because it impacts their ability to go to work, the default position should always be: we need to do as best as we possibly can within the framework of safety to get the children back to school.

Looking ahead, Dr. Fauci addressed how the government is working with the private sector to develop a vaccine:

The role of the private sector is paramount. Academia is part of the private sector. Pharmaceutical companies are part of the private sector. So every single candidate, therapeutic, diagnostic, and certainly vaccine that we're trying to develop has input from the private sector. There is no way government alone is going to fix this. It's a collaboration between government authorities and the private sector.

[Watch the conversation.](#)