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Inside Track

COVID-19 Fatalities With No Underlying Conditions Fall 90 Percent



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Practically everyone in the state of Alabama who died of COVID-19 had at least one underlying medical condition that likely contributed to his death, updated statistics from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) reveal.

According to ADPH, 2,932 people in the Yellowhammer State have died from COVID-19 as of October 30. Until recently, the department stated that of those, 130 were otherwise healthy individuals with no underlying conditions.

However, ADPH recently revised its process for investigating COVID-19 deaths. “We have added a number of questions to our investigation, including whether or not a person was considered obese (BMI [Body Mass Index] of 30 or higher), that have shown to be associated with poorer health outcomes among COVID-19 cases,” ADPH explained in an October 30 Facebook post. “Adding these questions has changed the numbers of those with multiple underlying conditions and no underlying conditions.”

Specifically, it reduced the number of deaths among individuals with no underlying conditions from 130 to just 14, a shrinkage of nearly 90 percent. In other words, just 0.5 percent of Alabamans who have allegedly died from COVID-19 were otherwise perfectly healthy.

None of this should come as a surprise. In August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were reporting that just six percent of Americans who died with — not necessarily *of* — COVID-19 had no underlying conditions that could have contributed to their deaths. Moreover, the CDC’s data indicated that 92 percent of those who died with the virus were at least 55 years of age, while 58 percent were 75 or older.

Out of Alabama’s population of 4.9 million, just 190,496 COVID-19 cases have been reported. In other words, only 3.9 percent of Alabamans are known to have been infected by the virus, and even that is suspect given the known issues with the existing tests. Moreover, of those cases, only 1.5 percent have resulted in death, and 90 percent of those deaths involved mostly elderly individuals with one or more



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underlying conditions.

CDC Admits: No Conclusive Evidence Cloth Masks Work Against COVID



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In an October 2020 report in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests what experts have stated all along: There is no conclusive evidence that cloth masks protect users from the coronavirus, especially since most people do not use them correctly and do not keep them clean.

The report states, “To our knowledge, only 1 randomized controlled trial has been conducted to examine the efficacy of cloth masks in healthcare settings, and the results do not favor use of cloth masks.”

There is increasing evidence that not only may cloth masks be ineffective against stopping coronavirus transmission, but that they may actually increase the spread of the virus, as well as worsen other health conditions.

A September report by the CDC found that more than 70 percent of COVID-positive patients contracted the virus in spite of faithful mask wearing while in public. Moreover, 14 percent of the patients who said they “often” wore masks were also infected. Meanwhile, just four percent of the COVID-positive patients said they “never” wore masks in the 14 days before the onset of their illness.

Likewise, the CDC’s October journal report references a 2015 study on cloth-mask efficacy that found that rates of infection were “consistently higher” among those in the cloth-mask group versus that of the medical-mask and control groups. The authors of the study suggested it was likely that the cloth masks were problematic because they retained moisture and had poor filtration.

The CDC writes of that study, “This finding suggests that risk for infection was higher for those wearing cloth masks.”

Yet the CDC continues to recommend cloth masks for public use, even as the organization has flip-flopped on whether the virus is airborne. Their latest assertion is that airborne transmission is “sometimes” possible “under special circumstances.”



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Taiwan Buying U.S. Missiles, Making Plans to Repel Chinese Invasion



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The people of the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan live with the constant realization that the military forces of mainland Communist China may someday invade their island nation. Taiwan's military, therefore, is stockpiling U.S. missiles as part of a strategy to repel any invasion of their country by mainland Chinese forces.

The communist government on the mainland has never recognized the ROC as an independent country, and claims that Taiwan is part of its territory. In a July 2019 report, Fox News cited one of many statements made by Chinese Communist officials that they would not rule out the use of force in an effort to reunite Taiwan with the mainland.

Given such voiced or implied threats made by the communist giant that lies only 80 miles across the Taiwan Strait, it is only prudent that Taiwan's military has made preparations to repel any such invasion. An October 26 article in *Forbes* outlined the details of Taiwan's buildup of defensive weapons.

The Trump administration on October 21 notified Congress that it had approved the sale of several U.S.-made weapons systems, including Stand-Off Land-Attack Missile-Expanded Response, or SLAM-ER, missiles, which are air-to-surface cruise missiles that could be launched from Taiwan's fleet of F-16 fighters.

The *Taiwan News* on October 27 described the plan that Taiwan would implement to repel an attack from Mainland China. Once the first wave of Chinese missiles hits Taiwan, Taipei's strategy is to return fire with ATACMS (Army Tactical Missile System), SLAM-ER, Wan Chien air-to-ground cruise missiles, and Yun Feng land-attack cruise missiles, which have a range of 1,242 miles and can be carried on mobile launch vehicles.

Both *Forbes* and the *Taiwan News* summarized Taiwan's defensive plan as to wage missile strikes against mainland ports and air bases across the Taiwan Strait. Their first objective would be to hit troops as they marshaled for an invasion. Taiwan's anti-ship missiles would strike Chinese ships trying to transport troops to Taiwan, while anti-aircraft missiles would target attacking planes from the



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Chinese air force.



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