



Written by [Peter Rykowski](#) on August 20, 2021

## Feds Extend Transportation Mask Mandate, Consider Vaccine Requirement

The federal government has extended its mask mandate for public transportation, while the Biden administration is considering a vaccination requirement to travel.

On Tuesday, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) [extended](#) its mask mandate for all public transportation, [including](#) commercial flights, trains, and buses. Originally set to expire on September 14, the mandate is now scheduled to end on January 18, 2022. Meanwhile, a [concurrent](#) mask mandate by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has no expiration date.



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These mandates originally began on January 21, 2021, when President Joe Biden [signed](#) an executive order requiring individuals to wear face masks on public transportation. This [followed](#) another order, signed the previous day, that [mandated](#) masks on federal property.

The CDC wasted no time implementing the order, mandating on January 29 that face masks would be [forced upon](#) individuals in “airplanes, ships, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares and at transportation hubs like airports, bus or ferry terminals, train and subway stations and seaports.” There are [very few](#) exceptions to this order.

The [full force](#) of the executive branch is behind enforcing its mask mandate, [except](#) when government officials choose to violate it. Additionally, the [CDC](#) and [TSA](#) have [modified](#) and extended their mask orders [multiple](#) times, while [other agencies](#) have played minor roles in enforcement.

Not only is the leftist-controlled federal government [determined](#) to keep its mask mandates in place, but it is considering increasingly tyrannical mandates. For example, the Biden administration is examining [mandating the COVID vaccine](#) for individuals traveling from one state to another. Additionally, [Canada](#) has mandated vaccinations for everyone traveling in a plane, train, or cruise ship. It is likely that the United States and other countries will seek to emulate Canada’s policy.

### Legislation in Congress

As the federal executive branch creates and extends its unilateral mandates, Congress is considering legislation on this matter.

For example, Representative Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.) has introduced [H.R. 4980](#), which would require everybody traveling on a plane to be vaccinated. Similar to Canada’s policy, this bill, if enacted, would amount to a significant setback to medical freedom in the United States and make it nearly impossible for the unvaccinated to do long-distance travel.

On the other side, multiple congressmen are pushing to overturn the executive branch’s mask edicts



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and restore medical freedom to public transportation. For example, six senators and 16 representatives have introduced the Travel Mask Mandate Repeal Act of 2021, or [H.R. 4441](#) and [S. 2337](#). Additionally, four senators and representatives each have introduced the SMART Act, or [H.R. 4041](#) and [S. 2084](#), which would also void the CDC's mask orders.

If Congress has any respect for individual freedom and the [U.S. Constitution](#), it will pass the latter four bills. Furthermore, Americans would be wise to follow [Senator Rand Paul's advice](#) and "simply say no" to the various mandates and other restrictions imposed by all levels of government. This is a perilous time for liberty, and it is imperative that patriots take bold, smart, and effective action to prevent a total Marxist/collectivist takeover.

*To urge your U.S. representative and senators to protect and restore medical freedom in public transportation, visit [The John Birch Society's legislative alert here](#).*



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