

**Priority question for written answer P-003895/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: Rules on mask-wearing

On 26 July the American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made a U-turn on the guidelines concerning the wearing of protective masks by people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19. In May the agency announced that people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19 could 'resume activity without wearing masks or observing physical distancing'. Yet the new CDC guidelines in force since 27 July stipulate that people who have been vaccinated should 'wear protective masks in enclosed spaces and in public places if such areas have a potentially high rate of transmission of the virus'.

Despite the fact that the new guidelines have not been given an unambiguous official opinion by WHO experts in the form of public guidance and guidelines (the last were introduced on 14 June), is the Commission considering establishing common, updated rules on the wearing of masks, similar to those produced by the CDC, or maintaining the prevailing procedure, particularly in the context of the following groups: (I) staff of long-term care facilities (LTCF), to whom the latest ECDC risk assessment report of 26 July is dedicated, and (II) employees in 'enclosed spaces and public places', including the employees of Union institutions?