

03/30/22 [BIG BROTHER NEWS WATCH](#)

NYC Mandates Coronavirus Vaccine for High School Students Attending Prom + More

The Defender's Big Brother NewsWatch brings you the latest headlines related to governments' abuse of power, including attacks on democracy, civil liberties and use of mass surveillance.

By [The Defender Staff](#)

Miss a day, miss a lot. [Subscribe to The Defender's Top News of the Day. It's free.](#)

NYC Mandates Coronavirus Vaccine for High School Students Attending Prom

[SI Live reported:](#)

New York City's high school seniors who are not [vaccinated](#) against the coronavirus ([COVID-19](#)) will have to miss out on one of the most highly anticipated night of their high school career.

In the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, proms have returned for graduating seniors — typically held in the spring from April to June — but currently only for those students who are fully vaccinated, the city Department of Education (DOE) confirmed.

"So I mean, my concern is — they can go to school, you can go eat in a restaurant, they can go to a wedding. Why can't they go to a prom?" said Kelly McKay, a parent of a New Dorp High School senior.

McKay explained the [hardships](#) endured by her daughter to graduate high school and that she should be allowed to celebrate her accomplishment with her friends at prom. She also said students "shouldn't be [pressured](#)" to get the vaccine.

Judge OKs Class Action Suit for Sailors Refusing Navy Vaccine Mandate

[Newsweek reported:](#)

A federal judge has allowed a class-action lawsuit from U.S. Navy sailors claiming religious [exemptions](#) to the military's [COVID-19](#) vaccine [mandate](#) to move forward.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor's Monday ruling also temporarily blocked the Navy from punishing or discharging approximately 4,000 sailors who have [refused](#) the vaccines on [religious](#) grounds.

O'Connor found that the sailors covered in the class action shared key similarities with a group of 35 sailors who had previously sued over the mandate — a group that he [granted](#) a preliminary injunction against [being punished](#) for refusing the vaccine in January.

Last Friday, the U.S. [Supreme Court](#) narrowed the scope of O'Connor's earlier decision, ruling that the Navy could use vaccination status when determining deployment, assignments and

operational decisions. Monday's ruling does not contradict the [Supreme Court's](#) decision, allowing the Navy to take the same actions against sailors refusing the vaccine in the class action group.

'Really Alarming': The Rise of Smart Cameras Used to Catch Maskless Students in U.S. Schools

[The Guardian reported:](#)

When students in suburban Atlanta returned to school for in-person classes amid the [pandemic](#), they were required to [mask](#) up, like in many places across the U.S. Yet in this 95,000-student district, officials took mask compliance a step further than most. Through a network of security cameras, officials harnessed [artificial intelligence](#) to identify students whose masks drooped below their noses.

Remote learning during the pandemic ushered in a new era of digital student [surveillance](#) as schools turned to AI-powered services like [remote proctoring](#) and [digital tools](#) that sift through billions of students' emails and classroom assignments in search of threats and [mental health](#) warning signs. Back on campus, districts have rolled out tools like badges that [track students'](#) every move.

But one of the most significant developments has been in AI-enabled cameras. Twenty years ago, security cameras were present in 19% of schools, according to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#). Today, that [number exceeds 80%](#). Powering those cameras with artificial intelligence makes automated surveillance possible, enabling things like temperature checks and the collection of other biometric data.

One of the Most Far-Reaching Vaccine Mandate Bills in California Will Not Move Forward

[Los Angeles Times reported:](#)

One of the most far-reaching vaccine bills introduced in the California Legislature this year will not move forward as planned, after the proposal to require all workers to be [inoculated](#) against [COVID-19](#) was shelved on the eve of its first hearing.

Citing improved pandemic conditions and opposition from public safety unions, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland) said she would hold Assembly Bill 1993, which would have required employees and independent contractors, in both the public and private sectors, to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment unless they have an exemption based on a medical condition, disability or religious beliefs.

The move comes as a group of truck drivers [protesting](#) COVID-19 [mandates](#) around Washington, DC, has said it plans to head to California to oppose vaccine legislation in the Golden State. AB 1993 had been among the bills listed on the People's Convoy website that the group planned to protest in California.

**BUY TODAY: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s New Book
— 'The Real Anthony Fauci'**

Adm. Giroir Hits Back at Fauci's Comments on COVID Restrictions: 'Eliminate This From Your Vocabulary'

Fox News reported:

Former White House Coronavirus Task Force member Admiral Brett Giroir said on "America's Newsroom" Wednesday that [Dr. Anthony Fauci](#) is wrong to suggest [COVID](#) restrictions may need to be brought back. [Fauci](#) said Americans should be prepared for such actions in response to the [Omicron BA.2](#) sub-variant or future strains.

"Tony Fauci always likes to cover all of his bases, so he can't be 100 percent wrong in the future. But we should not be talking about [lockdowns](#), restrictions, anything with BA.2 or any variant we have on the horizon. We have vaccine immunity, we have [natural immunity](#), we have [antibodies](#), we have oral drugs, we have all this in our armamentarium and we're in a really good place. Most Americans have immunity.

"And if you had [Omicron](#), you're certainly immune to the BA.2 variant, so we should not be talking about that. Secondly, we now know in retrospect that [mandates](#) really don't work, so we don't have the need for them, and they don't really work. So I think Dr. Fauci needs to eliminate this from his vocabulary for near and long-term," Admiral Brett Giroir said.

We Are so Over COVID

CNN Politics reported:

[COVID-19](#) may not be done with us. But we sure as heck are done with it. That sentiment comes screaming off the page of a new Monmouth University [national poll](#) released this week.

Consider: More than 3 in 4 Americans (77%) support the relaxing of [CDC](#) guidelines on masking and social distancing in areas with low COVID rates. Roughly 3 in 4 (73%) also agree with the statement that "it's time we accept that COVID is here to stay and we just need to get on with our lives."

Among that last group, more than 4 in 10 want there to be no future COVID regulations or mandates put in place. And according to a [new AP-NORC poll](#), 44% of Americans said they often or always wear masks around people outside of their homes. That's down from 65% in January 2022 and 82% in February 2021.

These numbers come even as [Omicron](#) subvariant BA.2 has become the [dominant strain](#) in the U.S.

Biden Crypto Executive Order Portends Dollar Destruction, Liberty Erosion

Newsweek reported:

If you like what the [Biden](#) administration has done to the paper dollar, then you'll love what it could do to a digital dollar. The odds of that perilous prospect becoming reality increased exponentially on March 9, when the White House [introduced its](#) "Executive Order on Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets."

The order might not only foretell the further erosion of the world's reserve currency — and with

it the wealth, economic dynamism and power that currency underpins — but the further erosion of our liberties.

It calls for mobilizing the federal bureaucracy to regulate digital assets, including cryptocurrencies, and to prepare for the creation of a U.S. central bank [digital currency](#) (CBDC) — an electronic dollar one might hold in a digital account with the Federal Reserve.

How the Shanghai COVID Shutdown Will Be Used Against the West

Forbes reported:

China is in a mild panic, and I have a hunch it has little to do with [COVID-19](#).

Their ridiculous, and failed, “zero-tolerance” COVID policy is magic thinking. But this magic thinking has led to yet another port shut down, this time in Shanghai. The target is not the Chinese longshoremen and lorry drivers, trying to keep them from catching a virus that might kill 0.5% of them. The target is the multinational American and European companies that are being pressured at home to decouple from China. The Shanghai [lockdowns](#) stifle supply chains heading to the U.S. and Europe, proving that China is “the indispensable nation.”

China is nervous that people here are thinking otherwise.

Volkswagen knows what the Shanghai shutdown means. It means supply constraints because everything is made in China, including some basic semiconductors used in automotive manufacturing. That leads to [higher prices](#) because things are harder to buy, harder to make. That hurts the U.S. economy.

Facebook Paid GOP Firm to Malign TikTok

The Washington Post reported:

[Facebook](#) parent company Meta is paying one of the biggest Republican consulting firms in the country to orchestrate a nationwide campaign seeking to turn the public against TikTok.

The campaign includes placing op-eds and letters to the editor in major regional news outlets, promoting dubious stories about alleged TikTok trends that actually originated on Facebook, and pushing to draw political reporters and local politicians into helping take down its biggest competitor.

These bare-knuckle tactics, long commonplace in the world of politics, have become increasingly noticeable within a [tech](#) industry where companies vie for cultural relevance and come at a time when Facebook is under pressure to win back young users.

Rise of the Five-Year-Old ‘TikTots’

BBC News reported:

Children as young as five use [social media](#), despite most platforms having rules users must be over the age of 13.

An annual study into media habits, [from Ofcom](#), highlighted the mini social-media mavens, with a third of parents of five- to seven-year-olds revealing their child had a social-media profile.

Among the eight- to 11-year-olds who used social media, the most popular platform was TikTok, with one in every three having an account.

The report noted even younger children — TikTots as Ofcom dubbed them — were watching videos on TikTok, including 16% of the three- to four-year-olds. The survey also found 22% of parents of three- to four-year-olds and 38% of parents of eight- to 11-year-olds said they would allow their child to have a profile on social media before they reached the minimum age.

Meta Halts Plans for Mega New Data Center After Local Backlash

TechRadar reported:

[Meta](#), the company formerly known as Facebook, has [halted its plans](#) for a new data center in the Netherlands after intense opposition from the government.

“Given the current circumstances, we have decided to pause our development efforts in Zeewolde,” said a company spokesperson.

The “current circumstances” in question are local, provincial, and national governments raising a series of concerns over the massive project, which would have served much of continental Europe.

Data-Harvesting Code in Mobile Apps Sends User Data to ‘Russia’s Google’

Ars Technica reported:

Russia’s biggest Internet company has embedded code into apps found on mobile devices that allow information about millions of users to be sent to servers located in its home country.

The revelation relates to software created by Yandex that permits developers to create apps for devices running [Apple’s](#) iOS and [Google’s](#) Android, systems that run the vast majority of the world’s smartphones.

Yandex collects user data harvested from mobile phones before sending the information to servers in Russia. Researchers have raised concerns the same “metadata” may then be accessed by the Kremlin and used to [track](#) people through their mobile phones.

SUGGEST A CORRECTION



The Defender Staff

[Sign up](#) for free news and updates from Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and the Children’s Health Defense. CHD is implementing many strategies, including legal, in an effort to defend the health of our children and obtain justice for those already injured. Your [support](#) is essential to CHD’s successful mission.

Children's Health Defense Comment Policy

We welcome relevant and respectful comments. Off-topic comments may be removed. Please read our [Comment Policy](#) before commenting.



4 Comments

Children's Health Defense

Disqus' Privacy Policy

Login ▾

Favorite

Tweet

Share

Sort by Best ▾



Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS



Name

Jan • 14 hours ago

"Students shouldn't be pressured to get the vaccine." ~ That's exactly what's happening everywhere in Democrats states. We've lost our freedom to the vaccine. Even jobs are offered on condition of vaccinations+booster(s). Ivies are the worst deniers of science. They mandate boosters that are irrelevant and ineffective against the current variants, reject exemptions and freeze course registrations based on vaxx status. I really cannot understand why the Democrats are so bent on making everyone take the vaccine that don't work and won't boost their approval rating anyway. Aren't they paving the path to their own demise?

2 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

jprexena • 16 hours ago

Boycott that prom as that school(s) are pushing for Convid death shot compliance. The more the merrier. If I were those students, have your own Prom at a different location that doesn't discriminate vaxxed or not. Do what the students did in Footloose.

From protesting the vaxx mandates, go to these parasite politicians homes such as Tyrant Adams. Have block parties and don't leave until they concede to your demands. These so-called representatives are supposed to work for us right? While you are at it, make sure these so-called representatives receive for the 2nd booster, the real death shot for science purposes.

2 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

drw22 → jprexena • 15 hours ago

Sadly, I'm sure there will be some students who will comply. I think it's an excellent idea to have their own party. Maybe parents can help with that.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

Caroline Cary Davidson • 16 hours ago

wow, what a crop of headlines! and to think that just a year or so ago, if any of US put prognostication to that effect, on social media,(or even in conversations with our families!) we would definitely be called conspiracy theorists or worse. yet here we are...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›