

A social virus every bit as dangerous as COVID has infected our country

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The persistent mutating of the COVID virus, the frightening surge of the respiratory virus RSV among children, and the threat of a severe flu season remind us of the power of viruses to keep spreading and to be deadly. We are facing a social virus in our country, as well, that keeps spreading and threatens to undermine our democratic and freedom-based way of life.

The symptoms of this social virus include hostility to those with different backgrounds and beliefs, the denial of basic facts and truths, the normalization of violence against those with whom we disagree, and the willingness to undermine our election processes. This virus has already spread into almost all aspects of our social fabric.

Masking won't help. Maybe asking will: Asking where this is taking us and whether this is the kind of country we want to be.

With the upcoming election, we have the opportunity to say with our votes that we do not support candidates who are willing to lie, distort reality, promote violence, or undermine our democratic way of life. Our economy and the inflation damaging it will recede in time. This social virus won't unless we stand up to it.

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