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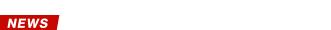
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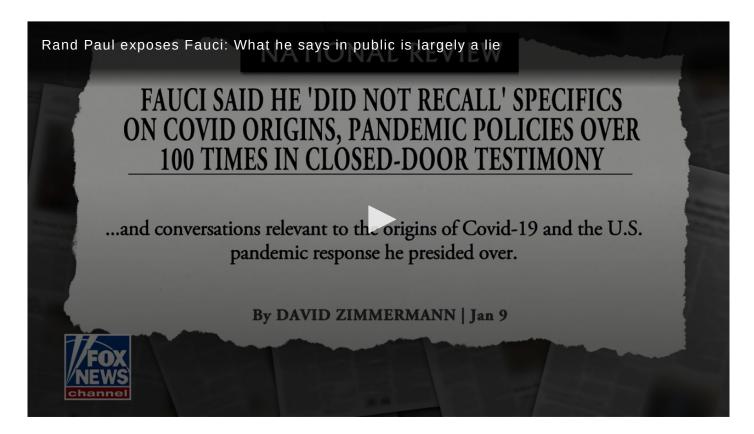




COVID '6-feet' social distancing 'sort of just appeared,' likely lacked scientific basis, Fauci admits

By Josh Christenson

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Dr. Anthony Fauci confessed to lawmakers Tuesday that guidelines to keep six feet of separation — ostensibly to limit the spread of COVID-19 — "sort of just appeared" without scientific input.

Fauci, 83, revealed to the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic that the "six feet apart" recommendation championed by him and other US public health officials was "likely not based on scientific data," according to Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), who is also a physician.

Schools nationwide remained closed well into the second year of the pandemic as a result of the social distancing guidelines, which were disputed by both research studies and other health officials.

"It never struck me that six feet was particularly sensical in the context of mitigation," Dr. Ashish Jha, the dean of the Brown University School of Public Health who served as President Biden's COVID response coordinator for 15 months, told the New York Times in March 2021.