

# Another 7-Day Vacation from Twitter

SEP 01, 2021



Twitter has again determined that I've broken the Rules. (The [last time](#) was in July.)

I can't post, retweet, like, follow, or send images in direct messaging for 7 days and must either delete the tweet or appeal the decision.

## What happened?

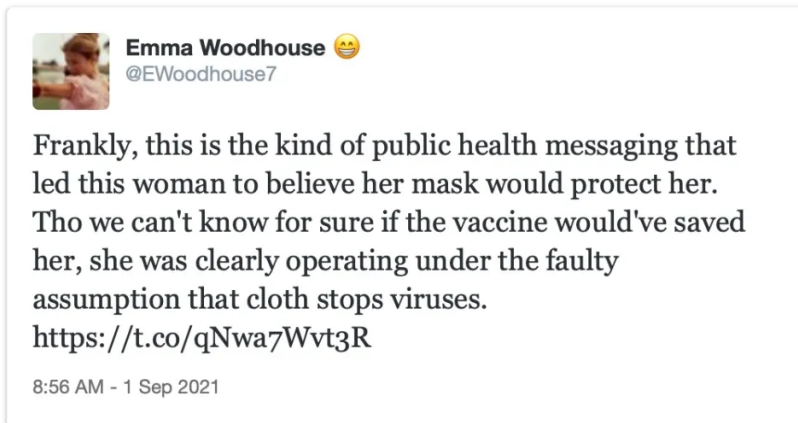
We have determined that this account violated the [Twitter Rules](#). Specifically, for:

1. [Violating the policy on spreading misleading and potentially harmful information related to COVID-19.](#)

We understand that during times of crisis and instability, it is difficult to know what to do to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. Under this policy, we require the removal of content that may pose a risk to people's health, including content that goes directly against guidance from authoritative sources of global and local public health information.

For more information on COVID-19, as well as guidance from leading global health authorities, please refer to the following links:

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) advice for the public from the WHO](#)  
[FAQs about COVID-19 from the WHO](#)



As a result, we've temporarily limited some of your account features. While in this state, you can still browse Twitter, but you're limited to only sending Direct Messages to your followers — no Tweets, Retweets, Fleets, follows, or likes. [Learn more](#). Your account will be restored to full functionality in: 7 days and 0 hours.

The post, which included a link to this [Good Morning America story](#) about a single, unvaccinated mom who reportedly died from “complications due to COVID-19,” was the third in a 3-tweet thread

### **Tweet 1**

The first tweet is my comment on a direct quote from a [Chalkbeat Chicago article](#), attributed to Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health.



Emma Woodhouse 😊

@EWoodhouse7

Illinois DPH Director making her boldest, most insane claim yet about masks yet:

"The bottom line is that masks are as effective as vaccines are."

WOW



[chicago.chalkbeat.org](http://chicago.chalkbeat.org)

COVID-19 surge on Illinois school campuses show need for mask, vaccine mandates, health official says

Public health officials pointed to the surge of COVID cases at newly reopened campuses to defend a school mask mandate and a new teacher ...

2:42 PM · Sep 1, 2021

495 Likes 119 Retweets

This tweet wasn't flagged, but I've since learned that the *Chalkbeat* reporters likely misquoted Ezike's statements in an [August 26th](#) press conference. Reviewing the video, I hear her say, "If we actually want our kids to be in school for in-person

learning, masking is a great protection and our best bet. **The bottom line is masks are effective. Vaccines are effective.** But until more people are vaccinated, we need to take the steps to protect our healthcare workers, protect our hospital resources, and protect our most vulnerable.” (28:50)

Unless *Chalkbeat* is quoting from a different statement, they've made a grave error. Without question, “Masks are as effective as vaccines are” is a different message from “Masks are effective. Vaccines are effective.” Perhaps the reporters were sincere in their misapprehension, but this can't be written off as a typo or autocorrection. (I've reached out to *Chalkbeat* about the apparent error.)

Arguably, Ezike's phrasing *does* give an impression that she considers masks and vaccines equally effective.

## Tweet 2

The second tweet in the thread builds on what Ezike was quoted to have said. [IDPH](#) and [City of Chicago](#) data show sizable gaps between vaccine uptake among Black and Latinx residents compared to other racial/ethnic groups.



Emma Woodhouse 🤔  
@EWoodhouse7

If the goal is to increase vax uptake -- and we know both Illinois & Chicago, uptake is lowest among Black & Latinx residents -- Dr Ezike's statement is at-odds with equity goals.

Race/ethnicity aside, why would she tell vulnerable people that a mask = vaccine?

3:52 PM · Sep 1, 2021

80 Likes 9 Retweets

Although Ezike evidently didn't claim, "masks are as effective as vaccines are," calling both masks and vaccines both "effective" sends the message that they are at least roughly equivalent in terms of protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection. It's not surprising that the *Chalkbeat* reporters got the impression that the IDPH Director is saying "six of one, half dozen of the other" choice.

In light of the data and their goals, do Dr. Ezike, the Governor of Illinois, and other public health officials like Chicago's [Alison Arwady](#), realize how anti-vaccine, anti-equity their claims about the virus-stopping power of cloth really are? Doesn't seem like it.

### Tweet 3

Now the third tweet in the thread, which included a link to an [August 20th story](#) from *Good Morning America*. This is the one that was tweet & linked story that was flagged (I've appealed, but Twitter only gives space for a few sentences, so it's unlikely I'll win)

## Thanks for your appeal

You appealed:

- 1 Tweet



**Emma Woodhouse** 😊  
@EWoodhouse7

Frankly, this is the kind of public health messaging that led this woman to believe her mask would protect her. Tho we can't know for sure if the vaccine would've saved her, she was clearly operating under the faulty assumption that cloth stops viruses.  
<https://t.co/qNwa7Wvt3R>

Sep 1, 2021, 8:56 AM

Please note that while we review your appeal, you won't be able to access your Twitter account. We'll take a look and will respond as soon as possible.

If you'd rather just delete the content, you can [cancel your appeal](#).

We've had 18 months of public-health messaging that has told people — including those most vulnerable to severe outcomes — wearing a mask in public will protect them. It breaks my heart, honestly, to watch all kinds of people who are clearly at risk — from the elderly to the obese — fear the virus, fear the vaccine, yet cling to cotton.

Which is exactly what Cindy Dawkins and her family were doing, according to her son:

*"I think she wasn't sure about the vaccine, and we followed the rules and kept our masks on," Burrows told Good Morning America. "Now seeing how it happened and how quickly it happened, it definitely changed our perspective. Getting a vaccine helps more than any damage it could do."*

Yes, the effectiveness of the vaccine continues to be debated.

Yes, people die from & with COVID-19 even after they're vaccinated.

But I hope both "No Choice" and "Pro Choice" advocates can agree that it's dangerous to steer any vulnerable person toward something that offers as little protection as using a shoelace for a seatbelt, and away from consulting a doctor about vaccines and other preventative treatments.

My tweet wasn't "misleading or potentially harmful".

The guidance Cindy Dawkins followed was.

***I've posted an Update to this post [here](#).***

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