

# Update: Chalkbeat Corrects IDPH Director Misquote

Message that masks and vaccines are comparably protective remains

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After being contacted by IDPH and at least two readers (including me), *Chalkbeat Chicago* has corrected [an article](#) in which IDPH Director Ngozi Ezike was quoted as saying “The bottom line is that masks are as effective as vaccines are,” during an August 26th press conference.

Ezike actually said, **“The bottom line is masks are effective. Vaccines are effective.”**

***Correction:** Sept 1, 2021: A previous version of this story incorrectly quoted Dr. Ngozi Ezike as saying at an Aug. 26 press conference, “Masks are effective as vaccines.” She said, “Masks are effective. Vaccines are effective.”*

*Editor’s note for “COVID-19 surge on Illinois school campuses show need for mask, vaccine mandates, health official says”*

I posted the article [on Twitter](#) this morning as part of a thread, and contacted *Chalkbeat* after watching the video of the August 26th presser. Twitter flagged the third post in the thread as “misleading or potentially harmful,” and gave me [a 7-day vacation](#) from posting.

Cassie Walker Burke, Chicago bureau chief at *Chalkboard*, replied to me this afternoon, saying, “We received your request for a correction. I wanted to let you know that we have updated that article to correctly reflect the quote as it was said in the press conference. We regret the error. Thanks for reading *Chalkbeat*.”

In a response to another reader, Burke emailed, “We were flagged earlier about this by IDPH. We have gone back to the tape and updated the quote accordingly. *Chalkbeat* regrets the error.”

I’m glad the correction was made and noted. [Fox News](#) picking up the story was a bonus.

But even in context, Ezike’s bottom line “**Masks are effective. Vaccines are effective**” implies masks are an adequate substitute or placeholder for vaccines. For the past year+, she and numerous other officials (including former CDC Director [Robert “Masks > Vaccine” Redfield](#)) have sent mixed messages to the public about the protective power of cloth against SARS-CoV-2 infection.

As I wrote [earlier today](#), such messaging hurts those most vulnerable COVID-19, many of whom erroneously believe they’re protected when they and others cover their faces with cloth.

***Thank you to Wirepoints for “covering the coverage” of this story in “Fabricated Fabrication And Further Follies From Illinois State Media”***

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