



CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL



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RAPPIN' Thomas Wyatt

## THE DISCONNECT

The problem with Black communities and the Police Force is a disconnect within the force, itself.

The definition of policing is the regulation of a community for the maintenance of public order, safety, health, and what-not.

It aligns with that police shibboleth, "To Protect and To Serve!"

I'm good with that.

So, how does one become a police officer?

Through vigorous training, of course.

The definition of training? The education, instruction, or discipline for use during an introductory, or transitional period.

I'm good with that.

We've all had some form of training at one time or another, right?

**The disconnect?**

Officers **trained** are usually not from the neighborhoods of which they **serve**. Therefore, those particular officers are always in "training" mode.

This means our **hoods** -the black neighborhoods- are nothing more than **live simulators**. The only goals are to get home and collect that paycheck. Or maybe, shoot enough **negroes** to "earn" that S.W.A.T. jacket.

You see: if you don't **communicate** with us, how do you expect to **connect** with us; coming out of seminars that view us "**BLACKS**" as nothing more than threats to your health on a second-to-second basis?

Now, some are trying to "address" this problem through, what is called, **Implicit Bias Training**. These programs are intended to expose people to their **intrinsic stereotyping** (or seemingly associative behaviors).

I **ain't** good with that!

In trying to "make" someone with bias attributes unbiased, you "objectify" us all over again. We're not black pop-up targets on a shooting range. And we're not black letters in a behavioral instruction manual.

We're people, bruh.

**Don't you get it?**

Be a cog in the community; Not a cog in the system.

## CDC says it is safe for vaccinated people to unmask outdoors



ARE YOU VACCINATED?

credit: Skims/Gap

BY NATHANIEL WEIXEL | THE HILL

(THE HILL) – New guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says it is safe for people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to be outside without a mask, but only in small groups.

The guidance, which CDC Director Rochelle Walensky outlined during a White House press conference Tuesday, builds on previous updates from the agency about the activities people can feel comfortable with once fully vaccinated.

According to the CDC, fully vaccinated people do not need to wear masks during small, outdoor gatherings even if there's a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

Dining at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households is also considered a safe activity for vaccinated people to do without a mask, the agency said.

"The release of these new guidelines is a first step at helping fully vaccinated Americans resume what they had stopped doing because of the pandemic, at low risk to themselves, while being mindful of the potential risk of transmitting the virus to others," the CDC said.

People are considered fully vaccinated by the CDC two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

More than 42 percent of the U.S. population has received at least one vaccine dose, including nearly 30 percent who have been fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

CDC emphasized that it's ultimately up to individuals to consider their own personal situation and the risk to themselves, their family, and commu-

nity before venturing out without a mask.

Even vaccinated people should wear a mask when outdoors in a crowded public space, indoors in public spaces like a mall, or even a small indoor gathering with a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

Studies have consistently found the risk of transmitting COVID-19 is significantly reduced when outdoors, particularly when individuals are socially distanced. Experts have increasingly questioned the need for mask use outdoors given the rising percentage of Americans who are vaccinated against the virus.

As vaccination levels have increased and infections dropped, there's been a growing chorus of public experts calling for CDC to update its guidance on outdoor activities. But there are likely many who think this does not go far enough.

For example, the guidelines for unvaccinated people have not changed. The agency still recommends wearing a mask when outside in public spaces.

"Masks may not be necessary when you are outside by yourself away from others, or with people who live in your household," the current guidance states.

"However, some areas may have mask mandates while out in public, so please check the rules in your local area (such as in your city, county, or state)."

Many states instituted strict universal mask mandates for indoors and outdoors, even if you're alone. But there's widespread consensus that brief encounters with an unmasked person running, hiking or biking are very low risk.



By Naomi Richard VILLAGER Entertainment Reporter

## 2021 OSCARS Black Stories Deserve to be Told

(VILLAGER) - The Oscars returned amidst a global pandemic with only 170 invited guests seated live, and yet offered a record year for diversity! The Awards, unveiling a new venue at Union Station in Los Angeles, was greatly paired down with little fanfare. It just wasn't the same this year as we've come to expect from the top-awarding institution in film worldwide with all the glitz and glamour.

It was invigorating, though, to see such an array of Black participants this year during the entire day's slate of activities. These luminaries and others were feted:

• **Regina King**

Opened the Oscars evening, and also directed the Oscar nominated film *One Night in Miami*, with screen play by **Kemp Powers**

See **DISAPPOINTMENT**, page 3



Gene Hersholt Award winner Tyler Perry arrives on the red carpet of The 93rd Oscars®. Credit: Matt Petit / A.M.P.A.S.

## INSIDE



Pres. Biden, set to unveil the American Families Plan initiative. See **CHECKS** Page 5



New ACM ensures equitable services in our community. See **CULTURE** Page 6



NAIA could see a new Women's rowing program. See **HTU** Page 7

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