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NASA Spacecraft to Touch Down on Asteroid Bennu in October Sampling Maneuver
by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

The US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is on the verge of pulling off its first attempt at landing a spacecraft on an asteroid with a highly-anticipated October touchdown on asteroid Bennu.

The spacecraft in question is the OSIRIS-REx probe, which was launched into the cosmos in September 2016 and placed on a trajectory that allowed the craft to reach near-Earth asteroid Bennu in 2018.

Although the van-sized probe has [provided the US space agency with data on the floating rock](#) since reaching its orbit, OSIRIS-REx is now preparing to briefly touch down on Bennu in a bid to collect both rock and dust samples. The momentary landing is expected to take place on October 20.

NASA [noted in a Thursday news release](#) that the Touch-And-Go (TAG) sampling event would see the probe land on the Nightingale site, a rocky area in the asteroid's northern hemisphere that measures 52 feet in diameter.

"Site Nightingale was selected as the mission's primary sample site because it holds the greatest amount of unobstructed fine-grained material, but the region is surrounded by building-sized boulders," reads the NASA release, noting that the probe will be landing in an area roughly the size of just a few parking spaces.

In total, the sample collection is expected to last about 4.5 hours; however, the majority of the time - 4 hours - will see the probe undergo the first stages of its downward trajectory, before descending at a steeper angle for some 11 minutes and then firing thrusters to slow its descent. Once OSIRIS-REx touches down on Bennu's surface, it will only spend a total of 16 seconds on the rock before firing up its thrusters to place it a safe distance away from Bennu.

The release indicates that OSIRIS-REx will be able to collect the samples by firing off one of the probe's pressurized nitrogen bottles, which will allow the emitted gas to lift the desired particles from Bennu's surface into the probe's "collector head" before liftoff.

In all, the probe is intended to collect at least 2 ounces of materials, the largest sample of any mission since the Apollo program, according to NASA.

In the four days after the trip to Bennu's surface, one of the camera's installed on OSIRIS-REx will snap pictures of the samples, and the craft will also conduct a spin maneuver to determine the collection's mass. Should the samples not meet NASA's requirements, OSIRIS-REx will be ordered to collect more material from the asteroid.

NASA stated in its release the probe is fitted with two additional nitrogen bottles in the event that additional samplings need to be carried out. "A TAG attempt at the back-up Osprey site would be made no earlier than January 2021," the agency wrote.

It's worth noting that the Benu collection will be done entirely autonomously, since the approximately 207 million miles between the probe and Earth create a signal delay of 18.5 minutes, preventing a live command by NASA officials.

OSIRIX-REx is scheduled to part ways with Benu in 2021. The probe's return to Earth with the rock and dust samples is expected to take place on September 24, 2023, should all things go according to plan.

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Thai Pup Ups the Ante With Water Exercises - Video Club

A water-loving pooch from Ratchaburi, Thailand, recently demonstrated that the perfect way to spruce up water exercises for man's best friend is to create a bit of an obstacle course.

Video obtained by video licensor ViralHog captures an adorable, gray-spotted doggo jumping back and forth between two massive water buckets, while chasing after a water stream from a garden hose.

Talk about putting a new spin on water aerobics.

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Pentagon Reveals Landing Gear Mishap Forced F-15 to Fire Missiles Into Sea in 2019

Emergency Landing

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

An internal report from the Oregon Air National Guard has cast new light upon a February 2019 incident in which an F-15C Eagle unloaded its entire missile complement into the Pacific Ocean before making an emergency landing.

On February 20, 2019, [an Oregon Air National Guard F-15C Eagle suffered a problem](#) with its landing gear after taking off and made an emergency landing at Portland International Airport. However, before it did so, the interceptor jet fired its missiles into the sea. Now, thanks to a Freedom of Information Act request, [The Drive has revealed new information](#) about this puzzling event.

[The 15-page accident report filed in April of 2019 notes](#) that after takeoff, the F-15 pilot noticed the plane's left main landing gear had not retracted as it was supposed to. After running through several unsuccessful attempts to convince the wheel to retract, the pilot declared an emergency and set about preparing for an emergency landing at PDX, a joint civilian-military air base from which the Eagle had taken off.

The report notes that there was serious concern among Boeing officials contacted by the base that the F-15's landing gear might collapse upon impact with the tarmac, especially since the

pilot's tailplane, referred to in the report as Mishap Flight Lead (MFL), had noticed the landing gear appeared to be dripping with hydraulic liquid. However, before they could land, "the Landing Gear Emergency-Landing checklist directed the aircrew to 'Jettison armament and chaff/flares,'" the report notes. "The MF [mishap flight] obtained a clearance to the overwater airspace to prepare for the armament jettison." Preparing for the emergency landing was not an easy process. First, the F-15 was low on fuel and Air National Guard officials weren't sure if the plane could fly fast enough with its landing gear down to keep up with the KC-135 tanker assigned to refuel it. To add to the problems, it was cloudy and not easy to determine a safe place to fire off not only the plane's [four AIM-120C AMRAAM](#) and two AIM-9X Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, but also its complement of defensive flares, which are used to confuse inbound enemy missiles. "While still awaiting the armament jettison plan, the MF conducted its first aerial refueling. The MFL lowered his landing gear in order to determine if it would be possible to refuel in that configuration at an airspeed of 230 knots. Both the MFL and MP were able to refuel uneventfully," the report notes. By checking air traffic and shipping lane traffic data, mission supervisors were able to find a "shooting lane" 40 nautical miles long and 20 nautical miles wide in which the Eagle could fire off its armaments, which took three passes through the lane to complete. Fortunately, the landing gear did not collapse upon touchdown, and the pilot emerged unscathed. However, the violent, wire-arrested landing caused more than a little bit of damage to the jet. [Local media captured the plane's landing in live footage](#) from the airport terminal. According to the report, the damage from the landing and broken gear together totaled \$418,280, but did not include the cost of the missiles and flares expended. The Drive estimated their combined cost to have been at least \$4.5 million. The cause of the landing gear malfunction is redacted in the report, as are any recommendations about how to avoid it in the future or how widespread the problem is believed to be.

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Already Challenged by Fleet Size Goals, Pentagon Expected to Ask for 530-Ship Navy by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

According to files from an upcoming report, the US Navy is looking at expanding far beyond its already-ambitious goal of 355 ships, with some proposals suggesting a fleet of 530 ships, many of which would be unmanned. [According to Defense News, which viewed some](#) of the supporting documents for the forthcoming Future Navy Force Study, the Navy wants to significantly restructure its fleet as part of a vast expansion. The fleet envisioned by the two groups commissioned by Secretary of Defense Mark Esper foresees a lighter force with more ships, [including large surface combatants](#), but fewer aircraft carriers. Many of these ships [will be either unmanned, optionally manned](#) or have vastly reduced crew requirements, all thanks to artificial intelligence.

However, the fleets these groups are envisioning are truly vast: between 480 and 534 ships, a 35% increase in size over the already-set goal of 355 ships. The US Navy presently has 293 hulls in service, including surface and subsurface vessels.

“One of the ways you get [to a larger fleet] quickly is moving toward lightly manned [ships], which over time can be unmanned,” [Esper told Defense News in February](#). “We can go with lightly manned ships, get them out there. You can build them so they’re optionally manned and then, depending on the scenario or the technology, at some point in time they can go unmanned.”

Last week, [Esper told an audience at the Rand Institute think tank](#) that even though China’s People’s Liberation Army Navy is larger than the US Navy and [has set an ambitious, 425-ship fleet goal](#), the US force is still more powerful. However, he also suggested the US Navy would continue to grow past 355 ships in order to maintain that supremacy.

The principle is not unlike that adopted by the British Royal Navy in the years prior to World War I: faced with a rapidly expanding German navy that threatened to challenge its supremacy on the high seas, London [established a mandatory 3:2 ratio of capital ships](#) with the Central European empire, ensuring it would always have more than Berlin.

Meanwhile, the US Navy continues to lag behind even its own shipbuilding timetable for reaching a 355-ship force by 2030. [A September 17 report by the Congressional Research Service noted](#) that the Navy’s 2021-2025 five-year shipbuilding plan is short 13 ships compared to its initial plan filed in fiscal year 2020, with just 42 new ships being built instead of 55. According to the report, Navy officials fear creating a “hollow force” - one that exists on paper, but lacks the sailors to adequately staff and maintain the whole fleet. The Navy is already short on personnel, [coming up 9,000 sailors short in a February report](#). However, in May, Chief of Naval Personnel [Vice Adm. John Nowell Jr. said he was “cautiously optimistic”](#) the Navy would hit its recruitment goal of 40,800 new personnel for fiscal year 2020, which ends on October 1. Sputnik reported that Navy ships are already running with far less crew than they should have: for example, on average, only about 265 officers and crew deploy on an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, the Navy’s surface fleet workhorse. [According to a Navy info page](#), the warship should deploy with 323 souls aboard.

“There are certain ship classes that don’t even exist right now that we’re looking at that will be added into that mix, but the broad message is, it’s going to be a bigger fleet, it’s going to be a more distributed fleet, it’s going to be a more agile fleet,” then-acting Navy Secretary [Thomas Modly told USNI News in February](#), when he ordered the comprehensive force structure assessment. “And we need to figure out what that path is and also understand our topline limitations, because no one wants a 355-plus fleet that’s hollow, that we can’t maintain. So we’re looking at balancing all those things.”

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Conservative US Supreme Court May Support State Push to 'Get Around the Law' on Abortion - Experts

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Following the death of US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, it seems likely that US President Donald Trump will get to nominate a third justice for the court. However, two experts told Sputnik the conservative court is likely to continue turning abortion rights into a state issue instead of mounting a head-on assault to abolish them.

Trump has promised to [only nominate anti-abortion candidates](#), so the possibility of a powerful 6-3 conservative majority on the court has only highlighted the dangers posed to a woman's right to an abortion guaranteed by the 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade*.

Joia Jefferson Nuri, communication specialist for In The Public Eye Communications, and China Dickerson, national political director for Forward Majority, told [Radio Sputnik's Political Misfits](#) on Friday that conservative judges seem to have settled on the idea that abortion is a states' rights issue - an arena where conservatives can put up roadblocks to frustrate women's ability to exercise their abortion rights.

"It was essentially a privacy case," Nuri told hosts Bob Schlehuder and Michelle Witte about the 1973 court case. "It has become this banner to lead the reproductive rights organizations since it was first ruled on, but it was also a place where it allowed a lot of states' rights, too, within the ruling, that people didn't quite understand and we haven't quite focused on over the last 20 years."

"So, *Roe v. Wade* has become this place where women have decided ... that that's the marker for the rights of women's choice throughout time and that it should not be touched," Nuri said, noting that since the 1973 ruling, a potential Supreme Court justice's political "litmus test" has been whether they supported or opposed *Roe vs. Wade*.

However, conservative politicians have also opened up a second offensive against abortion rights at the state level, where rather than ban the practice outright, they have severely restricted access to abortion, particularly by making the requirements of operating an abortion clinic so demanding that almost no facility in their state can afford to stay open. This legal labyrinth is composed of Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws.

"There are some states that say an abortion clinic has to be able to duplicate an emergency room. And we all know that you don't need a full-fledged emergency room to perform an abortion. It's usually an in-and-out procedure in a doctor's office," Nuri noted. "They're using their powers to get around the law."

"Justice Ginsburg did say that sometimes she wished that ... the decision had been made based on equal protection ... because this appears to be more of a gender discrimination issue," Dickerson noted. The difference, she said, is that privacy rights are an issue that has typically appealed to conservatives, while equal protections are an issue that has typically appealed to liberals.

However, Dickerson also cautioned that "there's a lot of grassroots fight that we forget about and we really need to support those organizations financially, emotionally, via social media, et cetera."

"We have organizations, like one of the orgs that I'm involved with, called Men for Choice, where men - our allies in the fight for reproductive freedom - but also multiple organizations across the country that don't get a lot of shout-outs, most of them reproductive justice organizations and abortion clinics that actually serve the needs of the most impacted of reproductive freedom rollback, which is Black women, Latinas, trans men, rural women, low-income women, et cetera," she said.

Nuri noted that some of the potential replacements floated for Ginsburg, such as Judge Amy Coney Barrett from the 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, who is [being widely touted by the media as the frontrunner](#) of Trump's short list, don't seem to consider it important for the Supreme Court to consider the question of abortion as such.

"She dissented when Indiana courts tried to block an Indiana law mandating parental consent in order for a minor to have an abortion," Nuri said, noting that in 2016 at Jacksonville University, Barrett said that the Supreme Court would likely restrict itself to interpreting the legality of new abortion restrictions and not seek to revoke the right itself. "She will make it a states' rights issue," Nuri said.

"I don't think that abortion, or the right to abortion would change. I think some of the restrictions would change," [Barrett said, according to Newsweek](#). "States have imposed regulations on abortion clinics, and I think the question is, 'How much freedom the court is willing to let states have in regulating abortion?' I don't think the core case, Roe's core holding that, you know, women have a right to an abortion, I don't think would change."

However, Nuri noted that abortion rights defenders fighting at the state level have suffered a series of defeats and setbacks in recent years because for many years, the focus - and thus the money - behind the nationwide movement to defend abortion rights has been on the national level, not the states.

If Democratic nominee Joe Biden wins the November election, however, Nuri said, "there will be pressure on him to go as far left with this judge as he possibly can go. I think he's going to be under pressure to duplicate Ruth Bader Ginsburg." Dickerson noted there is additional pressure for Biden's nominee to be either a Black or Native American woman.

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Video: US Woman Shocked With Taser, Arrested at Son's Football Game After Forgoing Mask by [Evan Craighead](#)

An Ohio woman has been charged with trespassing and may face additional charges after she resisted arrest and refused to adhere to a school's mandatory mask policy during her son's middle school football game earlier this week.

Facebook user Tiffany Lynn Kennedy argued in a Wednesday [social media post](#) that Logan Police Department (LPD) officers exhibited "police brutality at its finest" on Wednesday by immobilizing a woman with a stun gun and forcibly removing her from the Logan High School Stadium in Logan, Ohio.

The LPD detailed in a [Thursday news release](#) that the bare-faced woman, identified as Marietta, Ohio, resident Alecia Kitts, was approached by school resource officer Chris Smith and informed of the Logan-Hocking School District's mandatory mask policy.

Kitts, whose child was playing in the middle school football game, continually refused to adhere to the policy, despite Smith explaining that a face mask was required on school grounds. As a result, the officer ordered the woman to exit the stadium or be forcibly removed and cited for trespassing.

Kennedy's video footage of the incident begins around the moment that Kitts resists and the officer uses force to escort the mother out of the stadium. She can be overheard screaming at the 1:55 timestamp, shortly after the officer deploys his department-issued Taser stun gun. "Tasing this lady over not wearing a damn mask," says an individual out of the camera's sight. It's worth noting that the second officer who assisted with the arrest was not wearing a mask. The footage also showed that Kitts did have a mask in her back pocket.

Logan Athletic Director Theresa Schultheiss [told the Marietta Times](#) that, of the 300 fans present at the Wednesday football game, only Kitts and a grandmother were "having issues with compliance" with the mask policy, which appears to be a bit more aggressive than Democratic Ohio Governor Mark DeWine's statewide mask mandate.

[The order, imposed in July](#), stated those in Ohio must wear a mask at any "indoor location that is not a residence." A mask is also required when outside, but only when one is "unable to maintain six-foot social distance from people who are not household members."

Furthermore, "those with a medical condition or a disability or those communicating with someone with a disability" may be excluded from the order. It's unclear if asthma, which Kitts cited as a reason to not wear her mask, is one of the medical conditions covered.

"This rule has been in effect since we were told we could play," Schultheiss explained, as reported by the Marietta Times.

"Everyone that came through ticketing tonight was reminded, we had regular announcements over the PA reminding you that mouths and noses needed to be covered and we had signs at the bathrooms."

The LPD has announced that Kitts, who is charged with criminal trespassing, and "another female subject" could face additional charges, pending the outcome of an ongoing investigation into the matter.

"It is important to note, the female was not arrested for failing to wear a mask, she was asked to leave the premises for continually violating school policy," the department highlighted. "Once she refused to leave the premises, she was advised she was under arrest for criminal trespassing, she resisted the arrest, which led to the use of force."

Ohio is one of 16 states that have [reported a decrease](#) in new COVID-19 cases this week when compared to the previous week. More than 148,000 novel coronavirus cases and more than 15,100 associated hospitalizations [have been logged](#) by the Ohio Department of Health since the start of the pandemic.

At least 4,734 COVID-19-related deaths have been recorded by state officials.

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FDA Warns Parents of TikTok 'Benadryl Challenge' After US Teen Dies, Several Hospitalized
Evan Craighead

by [Evan Craighead](#)

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a public service warning over the "Benadryl Challenge," a deadly TikTok trend that encourages impressionable netizens to get high and hallucinate on a deadly dose of allergy pills.

The federal agency warned in [its Thursday release](#) that exceeding the recommended dosage of Benadryl, an over-the-counter (OTC) brand name for diphenhydramine, can trigger heart complications, seizures and/or coma.

Abusing Benadryl can also lead to death, as exhibited by a 15-year-old Oklahoma girl who overdosed on the OTC drug and died on August 21. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, [outlet KFOR](#) said the teen's death may have been tied to the social media challenge.

"The dose that can cause a hallucination is very close to the dose that can cause something potentially life-threatening," Scott Schaeffer, managing director at the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information, told KFOR last month.

"We are investigating these reports and conducting a review to determine if additional cases have been reported," the FDA stated. "We will update the public once we have completed our review or have more information to share."

The federal agency's issuance comes nearly a month after Benadryl manufacturer Johnson & Johnson [told TooFab](#) that the social media challenge was "extremely concerning" and "dangerous." The pharmaceutical company noted that it was "working with TikTok" and partners to put an end to the deadly trend and remove related content from the platform.

"As with any medicine, abuse or misuse can lead to serious side effects with potentially long-lasting consequences, and BENADRYL products should only be used as directed by the label," the company said of its over-the-counter drug, as reported by TooFab.

At least three teens in Fort Worth, Texas, were hospitalized in May after swallowing excessive doses of the OTC drug, according to a [September 3 news release](#) issued by the city's Cook Children's Medical Center.

"What struck me was that we had three teens come in for the same thing in one week," said nurse practitioner Amber Jewison. "None of these patients were trying to harm themselves. They all said they saw videos on TikTok and were curious to try it."

One 14-year-old hospitalized had reportedly swallowed 14 Benadryl pills.

"Each of these patients said they got the idea from videos on TikTok that claimed users could get high and hallucinate if they took a dozen or more of the allergy pills," the release noted, citing the hospitalized teens.

Jewison revealed that, in addition to the aforementioned dangers of abusing the OTC drug, an overdose of diphenhydramine can also leave one needing "a catheter to drain urine from the bladder due to not being able to urinate."

Large quantities of Benadryl can also lead to "severe agitation and confusion, fever, skin flushing, problems with vision, dry mouth, dry eyes, and inability to sweat," according to the [American College of Medical Toxicology](#).

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Trump to Name Amy Coney Barrett as US Supreme Court Nominee - Report
by [Evan Craighead](#)

US President Donald Trump will nominate Judge Amy Coney Barrett, of the US Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, to fill the seat of late Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Ruth Bader Ginsburg, according to emerging reports on the decision, which is set to be announced on Saturday.

Exactly one week after the announcement of [Ginsburg's passing](#), Trump has reportedly determined that Barrett, 48, will be his Supreme Court nominee ahead of the contentious November 3 presidential election, [The Hill reported](#) Friday evening, citing "multiple people familiar with the process."

"He's made his decision and it's Barrett," stated a Republican official.

Barrett, one of five women on the US president's [all-female short list](#), was nominated to the 7th Circuit by Trump on May 8, 2017, and was later confirmed by the US Senate on October 31, 2017. However, she was ultimately passed over in favor of Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

[Conservative outlets](#) and [pundits](#) have given significant attention to Barrett following reports of her White House [meeting with Trump on Monday](#). One of the main talking points raised pertained to the 48-year-old's Catholic faith, which Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) notably called into question during her appointment in 2017.

"Why is it that so many of us on this side have this very uncomfortable feeling that dogma and law are two different things, and I think whatever a religion is, it has its own dogma. The law is totally different," she asserted.

"And I think in your case, professor, when you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you. And that's of concern."

The 48-year-old federal judge is also a [professor of law](#) at the Notre Dame Law School, [specializing in](#) "constitutional law, federal courts, and statutory interpretation."

Notre Dame law professor Paolo Carozza recently pushed back against narratives circulating about Barrett, arguing to Indiana's [South Bend Tribune](#) that "people are reducing Amy to an ideological category instead of taking her for who she is: an intelligent, thoughtful, open-minded person."

Carozza argued that his colleague has academic and real-life experience in confronting some of the "most important legal and constitutional questions that are current and relevant to the Supreme Court."

Barrett notably clerked for Judge Laurence Silberman of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit and for Associate Justice Antonin Scalia of the US Supreme Court.

Carozza also highlighted that, unlike Supreme Court Justices Elena Kagan and Brett Kavanaugh, Barrett did not hold an overtly political role in a US administration.

"It suggests an even higher regard for her than just being politically aligned," Carozza said. "She has not been a political activist."

If confirmed, Barrett's appointment would give Republicans a 6-3 majority in the Supreme Court. Trump, who is [vehemently against](#) mass mail-in voting, [has repeatedly claimed](#) the nation's highest court may be called upon to decide the 2020 presidential election.

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CDC: Young Adults Account for More COVID-19 Cases Than Any Other US Age Group
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Young adults aged 20 to 29 accounted for around 20% of all confirmed COVID-19 novel coronavirus cases recorded in the US between June and August, according to a new study from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report [published by the CDC](#) on Wednesday revealed that younger adults in their 20s saw a surge in positive novel coronavirus tests among their ranks during the summer months.

Experts explained that while the risk of fatality is lower in young adults, those carrying the contagious disease “likely contributed to community transmission of COVID-19.”

“Younger individuals, who may not require hospitalization, spread the virus to older, more vulnerable persons,” [said Dr. Amesh Adalja](#) of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

“This change in infection patterns underscores the need to fortify vulnerable populations, especially those in nursing homes and assisted living centers, to insulate them from chains of viral transmission.”

US President Donald Trump has [continuously contended](#) that the US is “rounding the turn” in regard to the novel coronavirus.

Trump took his self-praise a step further during his September 3 campaign rally at Pennsylvania’s Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, telling supporters that the US, which has now recorded [more than 203,000 COVID-19-related deaths](#), is “years ahead of schedule.”

The event notably violated Pennsylvania state law, which [prohibits the public gathering](#) of more than 250 individuals at a single event.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, rejected the president’s unsubstantiated assertions.

“I’m sorry, but I have to disagree with that,” Fauci [told MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell](#) on September 11. The public health expert argued the US’ COVID-19 statistics - seven months into the pandemic - are actually “disturbing.”

“When you downplay something, that is really a threat,” he added. More than 7 million Americans have contracted COVID-19 since the pandemic began, [according to New York Times data](#).

Fauci’s comments came shortly after Trump [confirmed the authenticity](#) of months-old voice recordings made public by Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward on September 9.

The US president is heard confessing to the reporter that he “wanted to always play [the pandemic] down.” The March 19 audio also revealed that Trump was well aware that “it’s not just old people” whose lives would be at risk upon infection with the virus.

“Some startling facts came out. It’s not just old, older,” he told Woodward, who acknowledged the scientific findings. “Young people too, plenty of young people.”

When [an American voter pressed Trump](#) on those behind-the-scenes comments during a recent virtual town hall with ABC’s George Stephanopoulos, the US president appeared to make a complete pivot in messaging.

"Yeah. Well, I didn't downplay it. I actually - in many ways I up-played it in terms of action. My action was very strong," he claimed on September 15, referring to the administration's travel ban, which, as Stephanopoulos noted, [was filled with loopholes](#).

While Trump privately acknowledged that COVID-19 could negatively impact Americans of all ages back in March, he refused to impose a federal government response to the pandemic while also leading the GOP's push for in-person schooling to resume in the fall.

As governors rolled out mask mandates and other mitigation efforts over the summer, Trump openly criticized the safety efforts and publicly encouraged unrest via Twitter.

Trump continued to downplay the pandemic and spread misinformation during his Monday campaign rally at Ohio's Dayton International Airport.

"You know in some states, thousands of people [are infected] - nobody young," Trump erroneously claimed.

"Below the age of 18, like nobody. They have a strong immune system, who knows," he claimed. "But it affects virtually nobody. It's an amazing thing."