



A group of **anti-mask protesters** marched through a store in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The group of about a dozen anti-maskers was mostly young, and it included several children. Protesters urged confused shoppers to remove their face coverings on 'Burn Your Mask Day'. The group marched through aisles of the supermarket shouting at people to take their masks off.

In July, the US president urged citizens to wear masks in public and to follow **social distancing** rules. However, the statement was a complete turn from his previous **rhetoric** on mask usage. Previously, he refused to wear a mask and to put it on in front of the press because he did not want to be photographed wearing the covering.

According to Johns Hopkins University, Florida has had 670,000 new cases of COVID-19 over the summer, and almost 13,000 people have died because of COVID-19.

Difficult words: **anti-mask protesters** (people who protest against wearing face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic), **social distancing** (keeping a safe distance from other people in order to slow the spread of a disease), **rhetoric** (the way of speaking in front of public, and the way you make an argument).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *anti-mask protestor*, *social distancing* and *rhetoric*
2. Why were the protesters marching through the aisles of a supermarket in Florida?
3. Why did the previous US president refuse to wear a mask in public?
4. What made the former US president change his mind and urge the citizens to wear masks in public and follow social distancing?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Was it a must in your country to wear a mask in public during the outbreak of COVID-19?
Did you?
2. Were there protests happening around your country against wearing of masks?
3. Would you say that there was strict implementation of rules to combat COVID-19 in your country?
4. How did the people in your country respond to the government's decisions and measures to combat COVID-19?