The new frontier of COVID-19 testing may be in you
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Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), stressed that rushing a vaccine could do more harm than good.

The one thing that you would not want to see with a vaccine is getting an before you have a signal of efficacy, he told Reuters. One of the potential dangers if you prematurely let a vaccine out is that it would make it difficult, if not impossible, for the other vaccines to enroll people in their trial.

President Trump, meanwhile, has tweeted that the FDA should focus on speed while telegraphing his desire that a coronavirus vaccine be ready by Election Day, November 3. Experts have repeatedly refuted the idea that a safe, vetted vaccine could be ready as quickly as the president would like.

What we don t want to do is rush things along so fast for obviously political reasons, as far as I can tell, to get it out there and then discover wait, this vaccine doesn t work like we thought it was going to work or worse, there are safety issues, Saag said. So Fauci is exactly right. We need to do this the right way and keep a firewall between science and politics. This isn t the first time that health officials warned about the Trump administration s influence on public health organizations.

Last weekend, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted emergency use authorization (EUA) for convalescent plasma as a means for treating COVID-19 after Trump insinuated that the FDA was slow-walking clinical trials as part of a deep state plot to hinder his chances at re-election.

In a lengthy Twitter thread, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn said that the decision to issue an EUA was based solely on science. A few days later, the CDC created widespread alarm and confusion when the public health agency changed guidelines on coronavirus testing after pressure from administration officials.

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