



Biden to ABC's David Muir: 'I would shut [country] down' to prevent spread of COVID-19 if scientists recommended

Biden, Harris' first joint interview airs Sunday at 8 p.m. ET on ABC

By [John Verhovek](#)

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Biden says he would 'listen to the scientists' in combating COVID-19

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"I will be prepared to do whatever it takes to save lives because we cannot get the country moving, until we control the virus," Biden told ABC's David Muir. Kevin Lamarque/Reuters

[Former Vice President Joe Biden](#) said in an exclusive interview with ABC "World News Tonight" Anchor [David Muir](#) on Friday that as president, he would shut the country down to stop the spread of COVID-19 if the move was recommended to him by scientists.

“I would shut it down; I would listen to the scientists,” Biden told Muir Friday, alongside his running mate, Sen. [Kamala Harris](#), D-Calif., during their first joint interview since officially becoming the Democratic Party’s presidential and vice presidential nominees.

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Biden also criticized what he argued is the “fundamental flaw” of the Trump administration’s response to the [coronavirus](#) pandemic, that the nation cannot begin to recover economically until the virus and public [health](#) emergency is under control.

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“I will be prepared to do whatever it takes to save lives because we cannot get the country moving, until we control the virus,” Biden said. “That is the fundamental flaw of this administration's thinking to begin with. In order to keep the country running and moving and the economy growing, and people employed, you have to fix the virus, you have to deal with the virus.”

Watch “The Ticket: The First Interview,” a special edition of “20/20,” airing Sunday, Aug. 23 at 8 p.m. ET on ABC, in which “World News Tonight” anchor David Muir and “Good Morning America” co-anchor Robin Roberts conduct the first joint interviews with Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his running mate Sen. Kamala Harris.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/biden-abcs-david-muir-shut-country-prevent-spread/story?id=72519690>