

**From:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Feb 2020 01:47:03 +0000  
**To:** McNeil Jr, Donald G  
**Subject:** RE: question re the WashPost story

Donald:

You know that I always answer your calls and e-mails, but this one I want to stay away from.  
Sorry.  
Best,  
Tony

**From:** McNeil Jr, Donald G <mcneil@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:51 PM  
**To:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: question re the WashPost story

Now that I've had a chance to read the whole story -- after editors finished whirling -- I see it also contains these grafs:

Are they accurate?

Thanks

During one call, the CDC's principal deputy director, **Anne Schuchat**, argued against taking the infected Americans on the plane, according to two participants. She noted the U.S. government had already told passengers they would not be evacuated with anyone who was infected or showed symptoms. She was also concerned about infection control. **Anthony Fauci**, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who was also on the calls, **recalled** saying her points were valid and should be considered. But **Robert Kadlec**, assistant secretary for preparedness and response for the Department of Health and Human Services and a member of the coronavirus task force, pushed back: Officials had already prepared the plane to handle passengers who might develop symptoms on the long flight, he argued. The two Boeing 747s had 18 seats cordoned off with 10-foot-high plastic on all four sides. Infectious disease doctors would also be onboard.

On Thu, Feb 20, 2020 at 4:24 PM McNeil Jr, Donald G <[mcneil@nytimes.com](mailto:mcneil@nytimes.com)> wrote:

Hi, Tony:

The Washington Post has just put up a story saying that the 14 infected passengers on the buses containing 238 American passengers from the Diamond Princess were flown home AGAINST the CDC's advice. And that the States Department overruled the CDC on this.

Can you confirm whether that's true?