

# The Delray Democrat

## “Food for Powder” in the Culture Wars<sup>1</sup>

*Michael K. Cantwell*

Tut, tut, good enough to toss; food for powder, food for powder  
They'll fill a pit as well as better.  
Henry IV, Part 1

Unvaccinated Americans are 5.8 times as likely to be infected and 14 times as likely to die as are vaccinated Americans. The overwhelming majority of Floridians in ICUs with the Delta variant were unvaccinated, as were the overwhelming majority of those who died.

Every study published by a peer-reviewed scientific journal, including such renowned publications as *[Journal of the American Medical Association](#)*, *[Nature](#)*, and *[Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#)*, has reported that masking is effective in reducing transmission of the virus.

These facts are incontrovertible. Only an ignorant man would be unaware of them and only a stupid man would challenge them. Ron DeSantis does not strike me as either, so why does he virulently oppose vaccination efforts and mask mandates?

Does he believe phony appeals to “free-dumb” will motivate his base and ensure his reelection? If so, he might ask himself how many will be around and able to vote next November. Falstaff cynically characterized the sickly, scrawny soldiers he conscripted into the English Civil Wars as “food for powder.” So too are DeSantis’s COVID victims — food for powder in the culture wars.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Delray Democrat](#), December 2021, page 7.