

# Make Me Smart July 26, 2021 transcript

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**Molly Wood:** Warm GoGurt is kind of a good band name.

**Kai Ryssdal:** And that's where Drew starts.

**Molly Wood:** And now we begin. Hello everyone. I'm Molly Wood. Welcome back to Make Me Smart. The podcast where we make today make sense so definitive. I love that I love the optimism with which we begin every show.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Every every show, I'm Kai Ryssdal. Thanks for coming back. Ms. Wood. We missed you. And thanks to y'all for I guess I was gone last week do so it's not just me.

**Molly Wood:** I know, I was gonna say we're like, reunited.

**Kai Ryssdal:** I know. I know, for a long long time.

**Molly Wood:** Bouncing all over the world.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Alright, so the way this goes is we do some news. We play a little button of music, and then we do some some humorous or meaningful thing. And then we want 15 minutes, boom. Okay, so just because you know, I'm first in the run, then I'll go first. It's just the producers decide. Of note today as the Delta Variant continues to do what it's going to do in this economy, state of California, and the city of New York have said to their employees, public employees to be clear, you will get a shot, or you will rarely tested or you will not come to work. And I think this is the way it's going to keep going. I think this is the the now as we head late summer into fall, this is the way it's going to be with Delta Variant, Also of note today, the Veterans Administration, which is to say the federal government, right, the federal government's had all of its medical workers, and hospital staff are going to have to get shots, or testing. So it's, it's happening in a very real way. And I think it's number one, little a little overdue, but I think it's gonna move it's it's the right move the right move.

**Molly Wood:** Yeah, this is, I'm really glad that you picked this because a bunch of people had tweeted us to point out this kind of great thread on Twitter from a few days ago last week, by Brooke Harrington about basically social and scientific research on fraud, and how it can become very useful when you're discussing this idea of people who won't get vaccines. And I think when Kimberly and I were on you guys, I suspect you likely had a very similar conversation to the one that Kimberly and I had, it was like Groundhog Day for her, because I was saying what you just alluded to, which is it is probably time for us to stop letting taking this so lightly,

right or being lacks around our vaccine mandates, because because it is accepting the framing to talk about it as personal responsibility, personal freedom, right, we do not we have built an entire society, human society around the idea that you do not have an absolute right to put other people at risk. You don't get to drive drunk, you don't get to, you know, put other people at risk. That's not in the charter of your personal freedoms. And so to continue to frame it that way, allows for a non productive conversation. And so there's this kind of great thread about looking at this in terms of how we assign responsibility. And it starts out saying, like, you know, on, some people are like, what, we're just gonna have to punish them. And other people are like, well, we're just gonna have to understand them, because they've been lied to, and they're victims. And the thread points out that like, at some point, you don't, you don't publish articles suggesting and now I'm just reading that drunk drivers or people who knowingly transmit HIV to sexual partners without disclosing their status, need to be persuaded not to harm others, that that's not a matter of respect. And that, in fact, no one is arguing that we address drunk driving with kindness or executions. But that we are, we do hold people accountable like we do. And so when she talks about fraud, it's super interesting. And you should read the whole thing. But apparently, this research on fraud and con artists in particular, talks about how when someone has been conned, often they refuse to admit it later, even though they themselves know because they want to save face. And so she talks about how you there has to do you have to implement a social death? Right, like, as far as you sure. Don't get a vaccine. You don't get to participate in society, because you're putting other people at risk, right. But also, there has to be a cooling effect. There has to be a safety in admitting that you've been conned, and that can only come from other people who have been conned, coming out and saying, Yes, I was conned. You're not alone. We all have to talk through this and get the vaccine.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Totally, totally. And look, there's a whole you know, you can you can find essays and opinions and thoughts about whether or not About how to treat the people who have been conned, right? The challenge for us, I think is to make it a safe space for them to say, You know what? I think I was gone that I'm really sorry about that, and I got to get there. But the problem the problem is that the the the con, the fraud has been perpetrated in such a public way that lines have hardened. And I think that makes it really tough for people to climb down from their position, either either the ones who have been victimized by this fraud perpetrated by among others, the former president, United States, I think we have to say that right and many members of his party, but also those who are saying we have to shame everybody and shamed them into getting their shots and call them stupid in public and all of that because yeah, cuz that's not gonna get you there either.

**Molly Wood:** That doesn't do it at all. That doesn't do it at all right. And in fact, right that and in fact, we have started to see some creeping attempts by, you know, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, even Alabama governor Kay Ivey, Steven Scalise, the congressman from Iowa, Iowa?

**Kai Ryssdal:** Louisiana.

**Molly Wood:** Thank you just got his vaccine. Yeah, that last week, after being eligible for many months, but did it publicly and so there is a temptation to for people on Twitter to say, Oh, well,

you killed all these many people in the internet more, you blocked all these efforts, and whatever it has to happen. It has to happen for members of the same club, to start to acknowledge that the con is a con.

**Kai Ryssdal:** So so the appropriate so the Alright, so number one, Scalise, right, who waited for months and months and months number 2 Kay Ivey, who came out the other day and said it's the unvaccinated who were doing this to us, but who a number of months ago signed a law or passed a regulation? I forget which, saying no, no, you can't have a vaccine passports in the state of Alabama. So so the so the response right now is good on you took you long enough. But come on over to the to the to the side of light and goodness and vaccines. Is that the deal? I think so.

**Molly Wood:** Yeah. And it's a hard thing to do. Because you're like, well, it's really hypocritical and self serving and blah, blah, blah. And you know, and but that's that's the that's the divide talking. There has to be a willingness to acknowledge that doing the right thing late could still save lives. Yeah, and frankly, more importantly, that's the only people that some folks on the right are gonna listen to. There's no universe in which you and me sitting here talking about that vaccine. Oh, no. Convincing anyone? No, not a single person who is currently dead set against it. So yeah, the this the creation of the safe space has to come from the same people who have participated in profited from in some cases, fraud, right, and perpetrated the product. Yeah, right. It's just fat is a really interesting read, though, because it absolutism in the end will just kill us all. So like, we got to get somewhere. And we are up against it. So it's important for us to band together because the New York Times has a good piece on something we've been talking about a lot, but just a really good write up about the companies that literally exist to profit off of creating disinformation campaigns, including campaigns that discredit the vaccine. Like they did a good piece on the doctor in Florida, who's like, among the what they call the Dirty Dozen, like the 12 biggest, you know, spreaders of disinformation, because they make a lot of money like this, at the end of the day is the thing we have to tell everybody like you're being lied to, because it's making someone some money. Yeah, that's the con. Totally. It's a good start. Just go read it.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Totally shut. The one about Frito Lay in Kansas City, you gonna do that one real quick?

**Molly Wood:** Well, this is just part of my Yeah, this is just part of like my What did we miss Monday, which is that you should really, for all of the conversation that we have about, I don't know, Amazon or any other company. Like, let's not let's pay attention that coal workers were striking in Alabama recently, which is like got no national coverage all over workshift. And then there was this like, bonkers story. About Frito Lay employees who were striking, because some of them go 58 days in a row without not working and they're working 12 hour shifts with eight hour breaks in between and they call them suicide strikes, because people are shifts because people kill themselves. And they ratified a new contract that says, Okay, well instead of making you work every single day, seven days a week for 12 hours. You only have to work six days a week for 12 hours. literally went from about me, that was the thing that got me from 84 hour

weeks to 72 hour weeks like please do not be selective in your rage of our worker rights because How and that's their win. Yep. Yep. For Funyuns. Sorry, I'm sorry to laugh, right? I know. I was like I love either. But finance is a funny word. on that. No, let's go to. Let's go through my goodness gracious. Alright. Don't you feel like this is the part where we sort of have to say I have to say at least that, although we were half empty on the Olympics, me and Kai Yeah, a couple of short weeks ago, now they're on and I watch them highlights and it is all the things that the Olympics are great for are happening, which are like incredible, amazing, wonderful stories. So totally. With that Mia culpa out of the way. It was so awesome. I don't know if you guys have been following Tunisia, probably not because Americans are a little bit like we're kind of into ourselves over here. But it is. Tunisia is the essentially the only democracy is the only democracy to come out of the Arab Spring revelation revolutions about 10 years ago, but it is on the brink. Now there's been economic chaos. The Delta variant is just ravaging this country. And now the president, you know, froze Parliament fire the Prime Minister took control. And the thing that the US government's been very careful not to call a coup and in the midst of that, this like darling, 18 year old Ahmed Hafnaoui won the 400 meter I think the gold as a complete longshot and it's just it's exactly why the Olympics are great like I cried it's a wonderful in the all great and like, apparently all across the country. They're like he's a ray of hope. It's just beautiful. Totally beautiful. It's a good little bit. Yeah, good luck, peace.

**Kai Ryssdal:** So I've got two and but but before I launch into it did did you and Kimberly do the whole bikinis versus shorts on on beach volleyball thing or beach gamble.

**Molly Wood:** We didn't, no, i think it came after maybe after I was already out of town. And so thank you for bringing it up.

**Kai Ryssdal:** So this is a couple of days old, but it is it is just still completely mind boggling. So I'm just gonna read the the subhead from the New York Times, Norway's beach handball players were each fined 150 euros for wearing shorts rather than the required bikini bottoms. A spokeswoman for the International Handball Federation said she did not know the reason for the rule. So come on, come on. That's ridiculous. That's ridiculous. That's just absurd.

**Molly Wood:** That was the dumbest. Like, you really don't know the reason for the rule, ma'am?

**Kai Ryssdal:** So so there's that right. And so there's that. But a couple of days later, which is now a couple of days ago. Pink, the singer comes out and says she is going to pay those fines. She says the Norwegian handball Association will be fined for sexism itself. Good on you ladies. I'll be happy to pay your fine for you keep it up. So that's so that's my substantive one. I know it's great. It's amazing. And then and then my my fun one, much along the lines of Hafnaoui and swimming for Tunisia, is this Austrian mathematics PhD, who's a self trained cyclist made it to the Olympics in cycling the other day, and because literally because she had nothing to lose, said I'm just gonna go out hard from the beginning and see what happens. She went out hard. All the the superbly trained and, and machine you know, tested. Female cyclists just let her go. They're like, whatever, fine. She wins the thing. And then what happens is, when the peloton

comes around the corner 10 minutes later to discover that this woman is already wanted. They're all like, Wait, what? She won, she went from the beginning went all out and won the thing and I just love that mathematics PhD. And now she's going back to teaching self training. self taught the whole deal on a case and and what so there you go.

**Molly Wood:** The other awesome thing is the Did you see and I just saw this like the nanosecond before the show started that this Dutch racer, thought she had won like she crossed just like yes, I got this and she was celebrating and I was like, Oh, no, he's already won. Like she's cheap. Like, she just smoked you like a while ago. Oops.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Chickens: do not count before hatched. Anyway I love that one.

**Molly Wood:** Hilarious and wonderful. Yeah. Yeah. Damn it. Stupid Olympics. You win again. That's it for today. That's cool. They do. Cuz they're great. Alright, that's it for today, tomorrow. Tomorrow, we are just going to continue to have a little bit a little bit of fun. I'm not even gonna lie a little bit most fun story that we've covered in a very long time other than that ever given is WeWork. And so now there's a book we're gonna dig into the IPO meltdown, the upcoming SPAC the dishy stories behind the CEO self dealing. And of course what it has to do with the Fed natural world because apparently nobody's learned any lessons which is awesome nobody if you have questions about WeWork or you want to just email us on any other topics send us an email or a voice memo and makemesmart@marketplace.org

**Kai Ryssdal:** or you could call us leave us a voice message we used to call them a voice What is it called voice mails is when our number is 508-827-6278 508-82-SMART or just to lean all the way in 508-UB-SMART

**Molly Wood:** Never get over that happy accident. So great. Make me smart is produced and directed by Marissa Cabrera. Today's program was engineered by Drew Josted

**Kai Ryssdal:** Bridget Bodner is the Senior Producer this podcast executive director of on demand is Sitara Nieves. And there we go Mondays in the cab. all y'all take the rest of the day off.

**Molly Wood:** This is so great. I had only seen the story about the person prematurely celebrating I didn't realize that this lady was like Yeah, I just went for it and nobody tried to catch her because they were like massive dump. It's great. Right? So great.

**Kai Ryssdal:** never sell yourself short. That's it.

**Molly Wood:** Love it.