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*News comes as coronavirus cases spike across the country during holiday season. Fauci urging Americans to avoid travel and large gatherings, practice social distancing, and wear a mask.* 

WASHINGTON, DC - President-elect Joe Biden on Thursday asked Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert, to serve as his chief medical adviser.

Biden told CNN's Jake Tapper in an interview that he asked Fauci to serve in the position in addition to staying on in his long-time role as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"I asked him to stay on the exact same role he's had for the past several presidents, and I asked him to be a chief medical adviser for me as well, and be part of the COVID team," Biden told the network in his first joint interview with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris since the election.

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