



The National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness

January 21, 2021 the Biden Administration published its [National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness](#) (National Strategy) a roadmap to guide and actionable plan across the federal government to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Strategy is organized around seven goals:

1. Restore trust with the American people.

The federal government should be the source of truth for the public to get clear, accessible, and scientifically accurate information about COVID-19. To rebuild the trust of the American people, the National Strategy will signal clear public leadership and a commitment to a robust whole-of-government response that puts science first. Activities to achieve this goal will include:

- Establishing a national COVID-19 response structure where decision-making is driven by science and equity.
- Establishing clear lines of communications with all governors, state public health officials and immunization managers, and local leaders.
- Publicly sharing data around key response indicators.
- Engaging the American people.
- Leading science-first public health campaigns.

2. Mount a safe, effective, and comprehensive vaccination campaign.

The federal government will execute an aggressive vaccination strategy, focusing on the immediate actions necessary to convert vaccines into vaccinations, including improving allocation, distribution, administration, and tracking. This includes additional support and funding for state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, as well as a public campaign that builds trust around vaccination and communicates the importance of maintaining public health measures such as masking, physical distancing, testing, and contact tracing even as people receive safe and effective vaccinations. Activities to achieve this goal will include:

- Ensuring the availability of safe, effective vaccines for the American public.
- Accelerating getting shots into arms and get vaccines to the communities that need them most.
- Creating as many venues as needed for people to be vaccinated.
- Focusing on hard-to-reach and high-risk populations.

- Fairly compensating providers, and states and local governments for the cost of administering vaccinations.
- Driving equity throughout the vaccination campaign and broader pandemic response.
- Launching a national vaccinations public education campaign.
- Bolstering data systems and transparency for vaccinations.
- Monitoring vaccine safety and efficacy.
- Surging the health care workforce to support the vaccination effort.

3. **Mitigate spread through expanding masking, testing, data, treatments, health care workforce, and clear public health standards.**

The federal government will partner with state, local, Tribal, and territorial leaders to implement a cohesive strategy to significantly reduce the spread of COVID-19 and release clear public health guidance to the public about what to do and when, including implementing mask mandates; expanding testing; strengthening the public health workforce; modernizing data collection and reporting capabilities for COVID-19 and future epidemics; and providing equitable access to treatment and clinical care. Activities to achieve this goal will include:

- Implementing masking nationwide by working with governors, mayors, and the American people.
- Scaling and expanding testing.
- Effectively distributing tests and expand access to testing.
- Prioritizing therapeutics and establishing a comprehensive, integrated COVID-19 treatment discovery and development program.
- Developing actionable, evidence-based public health guidance.
- Expanding the U.S. public health workforce and increase clinical care capacity for COVID-19.
- Improving data to guide the response to COVID-19.

4. **Immediately expand emergency relief and exercise the Defense Production Act.**

The United States will immediately address urgent supply gaps, which will require monitoring and strengthening supply chains, while also steering the distribution of supplies to areas with the greatest need. To make vaccines, tests, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and other critical supplies available for the duration of the pandemic, the President has directed the use of all available legal authorities, including the Defense Production Act (DPA), instructing departments and agencies to expand the availability of critical supplies, to increase stockpiles so that PPE is available to be used in the recommended safe manner, and to start to fill all supply shortfalls immediately. Activities to achieve this goal will include:

- Increasing emergency funding to states and bolster the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) response.

- Filling supply shortfalls by invoking the Defense Production Act (DPA).
- Identifying and solving urgent COVID-19 related supply gaps and strengthen the supply chain.
- Securing the pandemic supply chain and create a manufacturing base in the United States.
- Improving distribution and expanding availability of critical materials.

5. **Safely reopen schools, businesses, and travel while protecting workers.**

Take immediate steps to support the safe operation of schools, businesses, and travel while achieving an overall decrease in COVID-19 cases. Activities to achieve this goal will include:

- Implementing a national strategy to support safely reopening schools.
- Supporting safe operations at childcare centers and at-home providers.
- Supporting equitable reopening and operation in higher education.
- Protecting workers and issuing stronger worker safety guidance.
- Providing guidance and support to safely open businesses.
- Promoting Safe Travel.

6. **Protect those most at risk and advance equity, including across racial, ethnic and rural/urban lines.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated severe and pervasive health inequities among communities defined by race, ethnicity, geography, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other factors. The federal government will address these disparities and advance equity. Activities to achieve these goals will include:

- Establishing the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force.
- Increasing data collection and reporting for high risk groups.
- Ensuring equitable access to critical COVID-19 PPE, tests, therapies and vaccines.
- Expanding access to high quality health care.
- Expanding the clinical and public health workforce, including community-based workers.
- Strengthening the social service safety net to address unmet basic needs.
- Supporting communities most at-risk for COVID-19.

7. **Restore U.S. leadership globally and build better preparedness for future threats.**

The Biden-Harris Administration will restore America’s role in leading the world through global crises, advancing global health security and the Global Health Security Agenda, including by supporting the international pandemic response effort, providing humanitarian relief and global health assistance, and building resilience for future epidemics and pandemics. Activities to achieve this goal will include:

- Restoring the U.S. relationship with the World Health Organization and seek to strengthen and reform it.
- Surging the international COVID-19 public health & humanitarian response.
- Restoring U.S. leadership to the international COVID-19 response and advance global health security and diplomacy.
- Building better biopreparedness and expand resilience for biological threats.

To execute on the National Strategy, the White House will establish a COVID-19 Response Office responsible for coordinating the pandemic response across all federal departments and agencies. To monitor outcomes, the National Strategy includes the creation of publicly accessible performance dashboards, establishing a data-driven, evidence-based approach to evaluating America's progress in the fight against COVID-19.