



## PRIORITIES

## COVID-19

## The Biden-Harris plan to beat COVID-19

**T**he American people deserve an urgent, robust, and professional response to the growing public health and economic crisis caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. President Biden believes that the federal government must act swiftly and aggressively to help protect and support our families, small businesses, first responders, and caregivers essential to help us face this challenge, those who are most vulnerable to health and economic impacts, and our broader communities – not to blame others or bail out corporations.

The Biden-Harris administration will always:

- **Listen to science**
- **Ensure public health decisions are informed by public health professionals**
- **Promote trust, transparency, common purpose, and accountability in our government**

President Biden and Vice President Harris have a seven-point plan to beat COVID-19.

**Ensure all Americans have access to regular, reliable, and free testing.**

- Double the number of drive-through testing sites.

**D** Invest in next-generation testing, including at home tests and instant tests, so we can scale up our testing capacity by orders of magnitude.

**T** Stand up a Pandemic Testing Board like Roosevelt's War Production Board. It's how we produced tanks, planes, uniforms, and supplies in record time, and it's how we will produce and distribute tens of millions of tests.

- Establish a U.S. Public Health Jobs Corps to mobilize at least 100,000 Americans across the

MENU

country with support from trusted local organizations in communities most at risk to

perform culturally competent approaches to contact tracing and protecting at-risk populations.

### **Fix personal protective equipment (PPE) problems for good.**

President Biden is taking responsibility and giving states, cities, tribes, and territories the critical supplies they need.

- Fully use the Defense Production Act to ramp up production of masks, face shields, and other PPE so that the national supply of personal protective equipment exceeds demand and our stores and stockpiles — especially in hard-hit areas that serve disproportionately vulnerable populations — are fully replenished.
- Build immediately toward a future, flexible American-sourced and manufactured capability to ensure we are not dependent on other countries in a crisis.

### **Provide clear, consistent, evidence-based guidance for how communities should navigate the pandemic – and the resources for schools, small businesses, and families to make it through.**

- Social distancing is not a light switch. It is a dial. President Biden will direct the CDC to provide specific evidence-based guidance for how to turn the dial up or down relative to the level of risk and degree of viral spread in a community, including when to open or close certain businesses, bars, restaurants, and other spaces; when to open or close schools, and what steps they need to take to make classrooms and facilities safe; appropriate restrictions on size of gatherings; when to issue stay-at-home restrictions.
- Establish a renewable fund for state and local governments to help prevent budget shortfalls, which may cause states to face steep cuts to teachers and first responders.
- Call on Congress to pass an emergency package to ensure schools have the additional resources they need to adapt effectively to COVID-19.

Provide a “restart package” that helps small businesses cover the costs of operating safely, including things like plexiglass and PPE.

*“THIS ISN’T ABOUT POLITICS. IT’S ABOUT SAVING LIVES.”*

MENU

## **Plan for the effective, equitable distribution of treatments and vaccines — because development isn't enough if they aren't effectively distributed.**

- Invest \$25 billion in a vaccine manufacturing and distribution plan that will guarantee it gets to every American, cost-free.
- Ensure that politics plays no role in determining the safety and efficacy of any vaccine. The following 3 principles will guide the Biden-Harris administration: Put scientists in charge of all decisions on safety and efficacy; publicly release clinical data for any vaccine the FDA approves; and authorize career staff to write a written report for public review and permit them to appear before Congress and speak publicly uncensored.
- Ensure everyone — not just the wealthy and well-connected — in America receives the protection and care they deserve, and consumers are not price gouged as new drugs and therapies come to market.

## **Protect older Americans and others at high risk.**

President Biden understands that older Americans and others at high-risk are most vulnerable to COVID-19.

- Establish a COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Task Force, as proposed by Vice President Harris, to provide recommendations and oversight on disparities in the public health and economic response. At the end of this health crisis, it will transition to a permanent Infectious Disease Racial Disparities Task Force.
- Create the Nationwide Pandemic Dashboard that Americans can check in real-time to help them gauge whether local transmission is actively occurring in their zip codes. This information is critical to helping all individuals, but especially older Americans and others at high risk, understand what level of precaution to take.

## **Build and expand defenses to predict, prevent, and mitigate pandemic threats, including those coming from China.**

**T** Immediately restore the White House National Security Council Directorate for Global Health Security and Biodefense, originally established by the Obama-Biden administration.

- Immediately restore our relationship with the World Health Organization, which — not perfect — is essential to coordinating a global response during a pandemic.

MENU

- Re-launch and strengthen U.S. Agency for International Development’s pathogen-tracking program called PREDICT.
- Expand the number of CDC’s deployed disease detectives so we have eyes and ears on the ground, including rebuilding the office in Beijing.

**Implement mask mandates nationwide by working with governors and mayors and by asking the American people to do what they do best: step up in a time of crisis.**

Experts agree that tens of thousands of lives can be saved if Americans wear masks. President Biden will continue to call on:

- Every American to wear a mask when they are around people outside their household.
- Every Governor to make that mandatory in their state.
- Local authorities to also make it mandatory to buttress their state orders.

Once we succeed in getting beyond this pandemic, we must ensure that the millions of Americans who suffer long-term side effects from COVID don’t face higher premiums or denial of health insurance because of this new pre-existing condition. The Biden-Harris Administration will work to ensure that the protections for those with pre-existing conditions that were won with Obamacare are protected. And, they will work to lower health care costs and expand access to quality, affordable health care through a Medicare-like public option.

NATIONAL STRATEGY

READ THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE  
COVID-19 RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC  
PREPAREDNESS

Download the PDF

MENU



## Stay Connected

EMAIL ADDRESS\*

example@website.com

ZIP CODE

ZIP Code

Sign Up

### The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

WH.GOV



T

MENU