

# COVID Presidential Actions

## EXECUTIVE ORDERS & ACTIONS ON JAN. 21, 2021 (DAY 2 OF PRES. BIDEN'S "10 DAYS OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS")



EO

### Improving and Expanding Access to Care and Treatments for COVID-19

- Directs the Defense, HHS & VA Secretaries to establish targets for the production, allocation, and distribution of COVID-19 treatments
- Directs the HHS Secretary to evaluate Medicare, Medicaid, group health plans, and health insurance issuers and to take any available steps to promote insurance coverage for safe and effective COVID-19 treatments and clinical care
- Directs the HHS Secretary with NIH to develop plans to support studies for promising COVID-19 treatments and future public health threats, to support research in rural locations, and to study long-term impacts of COVID-19 on health
- Directs relevant agency heads to provide targeted surge assistance to critical care and long-term care facilities
- Directs the HHS Secretary to issue recommendations to states and health care providers to increase the capacity of their health care workforce capacity



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### Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats

- Establishes the "COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board," comprised of representatives from depts. and agencies to coordinate efforts
- Directs the Treasury, HHS & Labor Secretaries to facilitate provision of free COVID-19 testing for those who lack comprehensive coverage and to clarify insurers' obligations to cover testing
- Directs HHS, Ed. & Homeland Security Secretaries and FEMA to support surveillance tests in certain settings and to expand access to testing
- Establishes a Public Health Workforce Program, and requires planning for public health threats



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### Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and Future High-Consequence Public Health Threats

- Directs various agency and executive leaders (including HHS, Labor Dep't, Ed. Dep't, OMB, OSTP) to designate a senior official to lead their agency's work on COVID-19 and pandemic-related data issues
- Directs agencies to review current public health data systems to advance innovation in public health data and analytics



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### Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain

- Directs the State Dep't, Defense, HHS & Homeland Security Secretaries to evaluate inventory of emergency response supplies, including PPE and the resources to effectively produce and distribute tests and vaccines at scale, and to use all available legal authorities, including the Defense Production Act, to fill shortfalls
- Directs these Secretaries to identify and analyze each agency's needs and capacity to produce/provide/distribute supplies
- Directs HHS, Defense & Homeland Security Secretaries to recommend how to address the pricing of pandemic response supplies (including whether to use GSA schedules for state, local & tribal governments)



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### Protecting Worker Health and Safety

- Directs OSHA to issue revised science-based guidance on COVID-19 workplace safety within two weeks to reduce workers' exposure to COVID-19 and to consider emergency temporary standards, such as mask-wearing
- Directs OSHA to launch a national program to focus OSHA enforcement efforts related to COVID-19 violations

**Note:** On Jan. 20, 2021, Pres. Biden established the position of the "Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response and Counselor to the President" (COVID-19 Response Coordinator) to assist the President and executive departments & agencies coordinate on the pandemic response

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### Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery

- Establishes COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force
- Directs agency heads to work with the task force to strength equity in pandemic response



### Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers

- Directs the Ed. Secretary to develop evidence-based guidance for reopening, and keeping open, in-person learning



### Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel

- Requires travelers to wear masks in airports and on certain modes of public transportation
- Requires international travelers to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test and imposes self-isolation and quarantine guidelines



### National Security Directive on U.S. Global Leadership to Strengthen the International COVID-19 Response and to Advance Global Health Security and Biological Preparedness

- Focuses on increasing the United States' role in the global pandemic response
- Follows the Jan. 20, 2021, reversal of the previous administration's decision to withdraw from the World Health Organization



### Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States

- Increases FEMA reimbursement to 100% of the costs states and tribal governments incur for deploying the National Guard or buying emergency supplies used to set up vaccination centers

**Executive Orders** | Exercising authority that Congress has given to the president alone or statements of administration policy that direct agencies to develop regulations or substantive law

# President Biden's "American Rescue" COVID Relief Legislative Plan\*

OVERVIEW AND HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES RELEASED JANUARY 14, 2021



## Additional \$20B for National Vaccine Program

- Encourage access for more priority groups (65+, essential workers)
- Establish more vaccination sites through FEMA, National Guard, FQHCs, and pharmacies
- Increase vaccine supply using Defense Production Act
- Use PHS Commissioned Corps for vaccinations, and hire a contact tracing workforce
- Create a public education campaign to encourage vaccination



## Health Coverage Expansion

- Subsidize continuation of COBRA coverage through Sept. 2021
- "Expand and increase the value of the Premium Tax Credit"
- Ensure ACA Exchange enrollees pay no more than 8.5% of their income for coverage



## Other Provisions

- \$1,400 per person stimulus checks (in addition to \$600 previously enacted)
- Extension of unemployment comp to Sept. 2021
- \$15 minimum wage
- Increased funding for long-term care residents and workers and in prison settings
- \$30B into the Disaster Relief Fund + \$10B investment into domestic manufacturing for pandemic supplies



## Additional \$50B Testing Initiative

- Purchase rapid tests, and expand lab capacity
- Implement regular testing protocols for schools and local governments

\*Dec. 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act provided \$30B for vaccination program and \$20B for testing program