

How the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Helped Inform the Federal Government on Critical Science and Policy Issues Related to COVID-19 and Other Infectious Disease Threats

In response to a request from the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a standing committee of experts to help inform the federal government on critical science and policy issues related to COVID-19 and other infectious disease threats. This committee issued a number of rapid expert consultations to the government on topics including surface stability and incubation, social distancing

science surrounding the current outbreak of COVID-19 and circumstances

standards of care, testing, COVID-19 and equity, treatment, development and distribution of a vaccine, clinical trials, and reopening of colleges and universities. Learn more at [https://www.nationalacademies.org/COVID-19](#)

In response to a request from the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Academies formed a committee that produced a consensus study to assist policymakers in the U.S. and global health communities in planning for equitable allocation of vaccines against COVID-19. In addition, the committee considered how communities of color can be assured access to COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. and strategies to mitigate vaccine hesitancy among the American public. Built on widely accepted foundational principles and recognizing the distinctive characteristics of COVID-19, this report's recommendations address the commitments needed to implement equitable allocation policies for the COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more at [https://www.nationalacademies.org/COVID-19](#)

The National Academy of Medicine's NAM Perspectives periodical provides a venue for leading health, medical, science, and policy experts to reflect on issues and opportunities important to the advancement of the NAM's mission. Early in the emergence of COVID-19, we published papers focused on coordinated communication from trusted sources during COVID-19 and best practices for crisis standards of care during COVID-19. NAM Perspectives continues to receive manuscripts focused on COVID-19 response and related issues, and additional papers will be published as the pandemic continues to evolve. Learn more at

The NAM Leadership Consortium: Collaboration for a Value & Science-Driven Health System is undertaking a sector-by-sector review of the experiences, lessons, and transformational opportunities for system-wide improvement that have been highlighted by the health system fragilities revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sectors that will be highlighted include: 1) patients, families, and consumers; 2) clinicians and professional societies; 3) care delivery organizations; 4) health information technology; 5) state and local public health; 6) health payers; 7) health product manufacturers and innovators; 8) health and biomedical research; and 9) quality, safety, and standards organizations. These sector assessments will be published as NAM Perspectives Discussion Papers and then bundled and released as an NAM Special Publication. Learn more at

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As many of the focus areas of the NAM's programmatic activities have been impacted - and in many cases, exacerbated - by the COVID-19 pandemic, our individual programmatic activities are also responding to COVID-19 as best fits their audiences and program's focus. For example,