



Public Health System Performance During Covid-19

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Resolve to Save Lives

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Globally and in the the United States, Public Health Failed the Covid Test

Public Health Failed

- Undermined
 - Blaming CDC for failing to implement effective Covid control in 2020 is like blaming someone who was encased in cement for failing to swim
- Pre-existing conditions
 - Chasms among federal/state/city/local public health
 - Slow
 - Underpowered, understaffed
 - Detection, information, and response systems that aren't robust
 - Health care and laboratory information systems that are neither standardized nor coordinated

How It Failed

- Budget rigidity
- CDC/State/City/County integration
- Non-standard dashboards
- Lack of parsimonious, actionable data
- Lack of real-time data and user-oriented data systems
- Lack of simple, practical, and clearly communicated guidance
- Weak connection to health care, especially primary care
- Insufficient infection control, including PPE
- Insufficient protection of workers in many industries
- Lack of incorporation of concept of risk/alert levels into all thinking
- Failed Covid support services (née contact tracing)
- Insufficient learning from and support to global partners



What To Do Next

- Fix budget rigidity
- Integrate CDC/State/City/County especially through embedded and rotating staff
- Parsimonious, real-time data based on case management information systems with agile, user-centered design
- Accurate, real-time, actionable dashboards with weekly data on equity
- Keep recommendations clear, simple and practical
- Strengthen connections with primary care and help strengthen primary care
- Finalize and procure safely reusable N95 elastomeric respirators that meet performance criteria: look like a face mask, no exhalation valve, easy to speak through, easy to clean, and in regular use
- Protect workers in all industries
- Incorporate risk-alert levels into all thinking
- Relaunch Covid support services
- Engage with, learn from, and partner with countries to step up preparedness
- Establish a public health informatics platform as a public good, built on data standards that promote interoperability, with a healthy relationship with contractors, and with steadily improving functionality and usability

Discussion