



(We submitted this letter to Dr. Bertagnolli on Juneteenth, June 19, 2024.)

Home Test to Treat Program for COVID and Flu Saves Lives. Let's fight for it.

Dear NIH Director Dr. Monica Bertagnolli,

The United States should not have shut down the Home Test to Treat program that was designed to reduce disparities for the most at-risk populations! The NIH-sponsored pilot program allowed adults who are uninsured or have Medicaid, Medicare, or Indian Health Service or VA coverage to enroll for FREE tests, telehealth and treatment for both COVID and flu. It also provided free telehealth care and at-home treatment to any adult in the U.S. testing positive for COVID or flu, regardless of their insurance.

We love this program! Public health advocacy organizations, medical professionals and concerned citizens are joining forces to ask NIH to restore and expand this life-saving program— what our country desperately needs to combat this ongoing health crisis.

Timely diagnosis and antivirals without leaving home prevent severe sickness and transmission of highly contagious pathogens!

In 2022, though the number of nonelderly uninsured individuals dropped, 25.6 million were still [uninsured](#) in the U.S. Based on the [U.S. Census](#), nearly 63 million have Medicaid (18.8 percent), 62 million have Medicare (18.7 percent), and 3.3 million have VA and CHAMPVA coverage (1 percent). In addition, according to reports from the US Government Accountability office, [2.8 million](#) individuals rely on the Indian Health Service for care.

If Home Test to Treat were made into a permanent program, over 100 million people will meet the enrollment requirement.

This year alone, [COVID](#) has caused the deaths of over 26,000 Americans, with 265,000 hospitalizations. Long Covid is negatively impacting the health of an estimated [22 million Americans](#), including [5.8 million children](#).

We are seeing damage in every organ system - brain, heart, blood vessels, lungs, eyes, gastrointestinal and skin triggered by post-acute infection syndrome.

“The best prevention remains to avoid infection and reinfection by following basic prevention interventions,” Xavier Becerra, HHS Secretary, acknowledged in the Office of Long COVID Research & Practice [report](#).

If our government is sincere about preventing post acute infection syndrome, Home Test to Treat should be widely promoted and expanded as a critical layer of protection for ALL!

We highly recommend adding FREE respirators to the bundle. Providing tests, masks and treatments will

greatly reduce the spread of sickness, absenteeism, and long-term issues caused by infections. It's time to put big money into a lifesaving program.

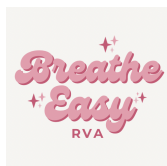
Please take action to restore and expand Home Test to Treat.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN](#)

Questions? Please email Sarah Cahill, MaskTogetherAmerica Coordinator, at sarahc.mta@gmail.com

Signers as of June 19, 2024 / Firmantes al 19 de junio de 2024





LONG COVID SOS

Organizations / organización:

The #MEAction Network

Strategies for High Impact

St. Babs

Covid Action GSO

Long Covid Moonshot

Strange Fox Fighting Arts

Solve M.E.

World Health Network

SpoonieStrong

Senior and Disability Action

People's CDC

Common Humanity
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Umoja Health Bay Area

Long COVID Foundation

Covid Conscious Club

Covid Safe Colorado

Covid Safer PDX

Hood Medicine Initiative, Inc.

Awareness for POTSies

Safe Air Project

Vermont Mask Collective

Clean Air Club

Breathe Easy RVA

Triangle Mask Bloc

DSA Disability Working
Group

Care Not Covid

Pittsburgh Community
Deathcare

COVID Advocacy Initiative

Health Justice

Putnam Progressives

ACT UP NY

Long Covid SOS

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