

Power and the Pandemic Matrix

Who has - and who should have - the power to act?

What level of government has the responsibility for responding to issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Read each scenario that took place during the spring of 2020, record your initial reactions, and then research and record the answers in the matrix below.

Government Power and the Pandemic Matrix			
Scenario	Who has the power? What do you think?	Record Evidence Write down what you learn from your research.	Final Answer? Who has and who should have the power?
As the first wave of coronavirus cases spiked in March 2020, governors and members of Congress urged the President to invoke the Defense Production Act of 1950 (DPA) to require private companies to prioritize government orders for N95 respirator masks, ventilators, and protective equipment. The Presidency initially resisted, then issued limited DPA orders. Who has the power?			
As the COVID-19 pandemic worsened, state governors around the country issued “shelter-in-place” or “stay-at-home” orders. The President refused to issue a national order, citing constitutional problems with a federally mandated lockdown. The President			

<p>further claimed he alone had the power to reopen states. Who has the power?</p>			
<p>On April 11th, 2020 New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio said that all NYC schools would be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. However, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said that the decision was his. Who has the power?</p>			
<p>Places of worship were amongst the many establishments closed by governors across the country as the pandemic struck. On Friday, May 22, 2020, President Trump asked that places of worship be opened to the public. Who has the power?</p>			
<p>On Tuesday, May 26th, 2020, President Trump tweeted that mail-in ballots would be fraudulent. That same afternoon, Twitter added a warning message that read, "Get the facts about mail-in ballots." Does Twitter have this power?</p>			