



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30329-4027

January 4, 2021

Dara Lieberman  
Trust for America's Health  
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Lieberman:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter to Vice President Pence regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Your letter was forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a response.

With thousands of personnel supporting the pandemic response, CDC is at the forefront of the federal government's efforts to control the spread of COVID-19. We have spent decades fighting epidemics and pandemics, which gives us the experience needed to mitigate the impact of this virus on the American public.

COVID-19 testing guidance was updated on August 24, 2020, to emphasize actionable testing for individuals with symptomatic illness or a significant exposure; vulnerable populations, including nursing homes or long-term-care facilities, critical infrastructure workers, healthcare workers and first responders; or those individuals who may be asymptomatic when prioritized by medical and public health officials. At the time, misinterpretations of these changes led to the impression that the update recommended against testing people who were not showing symptoms of COVID-19. CDC provided clarification on September 18, 2020, to reinforce the need to test people who are not showing symptoms, including people who have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

CDC will continue to recommend every tool in our toolbox to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including testing. CDC also recommends the following measures to mitigate the spread of the virus and to protect vulnerable populations: physical distancing, wearing a mask especially when social distancing is not possible, avoiding crowds, avoiding indoor crowded spaces, and washing or sanitizing hands frequently.

CDC is closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak and is working with international, federal, state, and local governments, and public health partners in our response. For up-to-date information on the response and CDC's most current guidance and recommendations, please visit [www.cdc.gov/COVID-19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19).

Thank you for the work you do to protect the American people and for your interest in this ongoing response. We appreciate your support as we all work together to fight COVID-19. CDC

remains committed to protecting the American public during this pandemic. Please share a copy of this response with the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert R. Redfield MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

Robert R. Redfield, MD  
Director, CDC