

The Biden Administration and the Congress: Oral Health and Pandemic Response

- Biden Administration's Health Priorities – promotes access to affordable insurance, a less complex system, prescription drug costs, COVID response
- Key HHS appointees – Secretary Xavier Becerra; Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm; Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary of Health; Dr. Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General; Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director, CDC; Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, COVID-19 Task Force Chair
- Acting/new appointees in the Office of the Secretary – Norris Cochran, Acting Secretary; Sean McCluskie, Chief of Staff; Blair Duncan, Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration; Felicia Collins, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health; Anne Tatem, Acting Assisting Secretary for Legislation; Laina Bush, Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; Acting Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Nikki Bratcher-Bowman

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- Acting Operating Division Leaders:
 - Acting, Administration for Children and Families – Ben Goldhaber
 - Acting, Administrator for Aging, and Administrator, Administration for Community Living – Alison Barkoff
 - Acting Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – David Meyers
 - Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – Liz Richter
 - Acting Commissioner, FDA – Janet Woodcock
 - Acting Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration – Diana Espinosa
 - Acting Director, Indian Health Service – Elizabeth Fowler
 - Director, NIH – Francis Collins
 - Acting Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – Tom Coderre

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- Opportunities for engaging the Administration, incoming Congress around oral health
 - Establish a Medicare dental benefit in Part B
 - Preserve and expand Medicaid adult dental benefits
 - Expand VA coverage for non-disabled veterans
 - Build on the ACA's achievements by amending the ACA to add adult dental benefits to the list of EHBs that must be offered in marketplace plans
 - Use telehealth and other access strategies to reach underserved populations
 - Support efforts to integrate oral health into overall health
 - Address pandemic-related challenges that disrupt access to dental care

President Biden's Strategies to Address the Coronavirus Pandemic

- Administer 100 million doses of vaccine in the first 100 days
- Set up mass vaccination clinics
- Allow federally qualified health centers to directly access vaccines
- Use the Defense Production Act to ensure plenty of vaccine supplies
- Sign executive actions to combat the virus
- Launch a vaccine education campaign
- This just in.....

National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness

- Goal 1: Restore trust with the American people
- Goal 2: Mount a safe, effective, comprehensive vaccination campaign
- Goal 3: Mitigate spread through expanding masking, testing, data, treatment, workforce, and clear public health standards
- Goal 4: Immediately expand emergency relief and exercise the Defense Production Act
- Goal 5: Safely reopen schools, businesses, and travel, while protecting workers
- Goal 6: Protect those most at risk and advance equity, including across racial, ethnic and rural/urban lines
- Goal 7: Restore U.S. leadership globally and build better preparedness for future threats