
Many of the Report’s recommendations would be enacted by passage of the *Protecting America from Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza Act* (*The Influenza Act*), reintroduced today in the House of Representatives by Congressman Rick Larsen (D-WA-02), along with Representatives Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA-44), Ami Bera, M.D. (D-CA-07), Deborah Ross (D-NC-02), Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC-At-Large), and Ritchie Torres (D-NY-15). This legislation comes in the wake of a season that saw the highest levels of hospitalization in a decade and tens of thousands of fatalities—including the deaths of more than 160 children.

“Seasonal influenza is perhaps our country’s most predictable, preventable public health crisis,” said former Senate Majority Leader and Chairman of the Coalition to Stop Flu Tom Daschle. “And right now, the world is experiencing the worst ever outbreak of avian influenza. More can, and must, be done to protect our nation’s health and economic prosperity. *The Influenza Act* provides commonsense solutions to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to seasonal and pandemic flu.”

The Influenza Act would take important steps to modernize America’s *seasonal and pandemic influenza infrastructure*, including strengthening and diversifying influenza vaccine development, manufacturing, and supply chains; promoting innovation and the use of new technologies to detect, prevent, and respond to influenza; increasing influenza vaccine, therapeutics and testing access and coverage; and authorizing sustainable funding for the influenza ecosystem.

“We have all heard the phrase ‘just the flu’—tragically, this fundamentally misrepresents a deadly virus,” said Coalition to Stop Flu Executive Director Niki Carelli. “Our nation has experienced four influenza pandemics since 1918. It is a question of when—not if—the next pandemic reaches our shores. Congress must act now to strengthen and modernize our federal influenza infrastructure, which serves as the backbone for both our seasonal and pandemic response.”

The Report highlights successes and opportunities for improvement in influenza preparedness and response across three areas: prevention and treatment; data and surveillance; and the seasonal-pandemic ecosystem. Recommendations for policymakers include improving public education and...
access to vaccines and treatments; collecting more detailed information on flu cases; making testing a greater part of the flu strategy; and supporting innovation in medical countermeasure development and stockpile management.

The Coalition to Stop Flu looks forward to continuing its partnership with Congress and the Administration to secure sustainable federal funding and enact proactive policy solutions to stop influenza deaths. The Coalition will continue its work to raise awareness and prioritize seasonal and pandemic influenza preparedness by serving as a united voice and trusted resource for policymakers.

Read the complete text of the legislation here. View a section-by-section of the legislation here and a one-page summary here.

About the **Coalition to Stop Flu**
The Coalition to Stop Flu is a multi-sector advocacy coalition dedicated to ending deaths from seasonal and pandemic influenza. The Coalition’s federal policy agenda is aimed at saving lives, saving money, and protecting public health by enhancing the U.S. influenza ecosystem, including ensuring adequate funding for priority influenza programs.

The Coalition’s members include Alvogen, the American Heart Association, the American Society for Microbiology, the Association of Immunization Managers, the Association of Public Health Laboratories, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, BD, CSL Seqirus, Families Fighting Flu, Genentech, GSK, the Healthcare Distribution Alliance, Immunize.org, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Inovio Pharmaceuticals, the National Association of City and County Health Officials, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Sanofi, Trust for America's Health, Vaccinate Your Family, and Vir Biotechnology.

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