

Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans, led by full committee Republican Leader Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Republican Leader Brett Guthrie (R-KY), have been working the last several months to develop recommendations for a potential second wave of COVID-19 infections in the United States.

Today's [report](#) includes many recommendations officials should consider to better position the country to produce and distribute vaccines and therapeutics. These recommendations follow a [previous release](#) of testing and surveillance recommendations. Additional pillars of this agenda will be released in the coming months, and you can read more about this effort [here](#) and [here](#).

The Executive Branch is leading several efforts, such as Operation Warp Speed and the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV), and should ensure coordination and communication of all the efforts try to minimize any duplication or inefficiencies on the work to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

Key Recommendations:

- To help better understand the virus, improve patient care, and accelerate the development of new treatments, the Executive Branch, Congress, and the private sector should further explore ways to incentivize providers to collect and report actionable data
- FDA should consider the quickest pathways by which vaccines can be made available. Throughout the development process, and despite any expedited processes, it is critical that the safety and efficacy of vaccine candidates be thoroughly studied.
- Congress and the Executive Branch should examine ways to encourage continued routine immunizations during the pandemic, especially pediatric immunizations and the seasonal influenza vaccine in the fall, including enhanced vaccine education and vaccine surveillance.
- Because seasonal influenza preparedness is intertwined with the fall response to COVID-19, steps should be taken to strengthen the supply chain of the U.S. influenza vaccine supply.
 - Only about 53 percent of the U.S. seasonal influenza vaccines are produced in the U.S., with 47 percent of vaccines imported.
- While allowing the utilization of these drugs or agents for COVID-19 where appropriate, Congress, the Executive Branch, and the private sector should ensure continued supply and access of the drugs or agents for their intended purpose, where applicable.
 - For example, patients who are prescribed dexamethasone to treat inflammation, arthritis, or other disorders should not face shortages or access issues for dexamethasone due to the increase of utilization to treat patients with COVID-19.
- The Executive Branch should ensure there is a comprehensive national vaccine plan and efforts to accelerate the development and delivery of a vaccine are coordinated.
 - On May 22, 2020, bipartisan leaders of the Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator, Dr. Debra Birx, urging the Trump Administration to develop a national COVID-19 vaccine plan that includes plans for the development, manufacturing, distribution, provider training, public education, and broad vaccine access.

- Congress and the Executive Branch should continue to consider how to deploy limited amounts of vaccines as they become available.
- To the extent that the private sector needs to shift its manufacturing of other products to other facilities, including international facilities, to accommodate for at-risk manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, Congress and the Executive Branch should examine ways to reduce the regulatory hurdles to expedite the pharmaceutical industry's ability to do that safely and efficiently.

Read the full list of recommendations and findings [here](#).