

How America defeats the coronavirus

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Word Count: 495

Recently, President Trump announced an extension of social distancing guidelines through the end of April in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. American workers and businesses, students and schools equally sidelined by the virus eager to continue the pursuit of their American Dream wonder when life will return to normal. While scientists and pundits debate timelines, one thing we can be certain of is *how* America will defeat the coronavirus. America's ability to execute the '*How*' will assuredly impact the '*When*'. The *how*, not surprisingly, is incumbent on effective government coordination, empowering public-private partnerships, and reinforcing public buy-in with community engagement.

As we have seen so far, President Trump's whole-of-government response to the coronavirus has broken down traditional government silos to enable better coordination across a multitude of federal agencies. Often in government, the right hand does not know what the left is doing. This often leads to needless delays, duplicative efforts, and government waste - bad enough when times are good, but especially devastating during a disaster response. Likewise, public-private partnerships play a critical role in response efforts. However, as we have observed with private laboratories wanting to assist their already backlogged government counterparts, burdensome government regulations and approval processes can severely impede the cost and timeliness for an appropriate response. Leveraging expertise and resources across federal agencies in addition to removing barriers to public-private partnerships is imperative to ensuring America is playing at 'full-strength' instead of a 'man down'.

President Trump is absolutely correct - America is at war, an invisible war. Like the greatest generation before us during World War II, communities and the individuals that comprise them have a critical role to play in this effort. President Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's coronavirus Guidelines for America (see [coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-for-america.html)) makes this abundantly clear - everyone of all ages and health statuses in every community across America has a responsibility to do their part to slow the spread of this invisible enemy. Defeating the coronavirus will require an all-hands-on-deck, '*E Pluribus Unum*' community response. While response efforts will continue to be locally executed, state managed, and federally supported; ultimately, the responsibility falls to each of us to do our part and fight for the lives and communities we love. I am confident that if we do, America will emerge stronger and more resilient than ever before.

The boundless enterprise and optimism of our people are what keep America great. The ethos of America is that our best days always lie ahead and no problem we face as a nation is beyond our capacity to solve. While America may find itself down, it is never out. We and we alone chart our own course and determine our own destiny - which is why I have no doubt America will defeat the coronavirus and any other future threats that seek to deprive any American their life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

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