How to Build a Pandemic-Ready Public Health System

1: Modernize Data Systems

Invest in a totally integrated, high-speed networked health system -- from labs to healthcare to public health -- that allows public health officials to "see the whole picture" and recognize and respond to new outbreaks more quickly.

2: Take a New Approach to the Disease Intervention Specialist Workforce

Increase the baseline DIS workforce so that it’s representative of communities, cross-train them so public health agencies remain capable of broadly meeting outbreak response needs routinely, and establish a rapid new-hire process to use in emergencies.

3: Enact Policies that Support Contact Tracing

Develop policies that remove barriers to truthful reporting to contact tracers as well as strategies that strengthen and loosen disease containment policies depending on the scale of the outbreak in specific states or localities.

4: Increase Visibility of and Communication About Public Health

Build relationships with communities before a crisis and work to effectively communicate public health responsibilities and goals to make the field more visible to local communities.