

**From:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Mon, 9 Mar 2020 02:59:07 +0000  
**To:** Thomas R. Frieden  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - guess which (b) (6) I was thinking of....

Great article. Glad to be the anonymous subject of your discussion. 😊

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**From:** Thomas R. Frieden (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2020 3:32 PM  
**To:** Deborah Birx (b) (6); Deborah Birx (b) (6); Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Redd, Stephen (CDC/DDPHSIS/OD) (b) (6); Schuchat, Anne MD (CDC/OD) (b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FYI - guess which (b) (6) I was thinking of....

New article re nursing home restrictions and more [here](#).

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**From:** Tom Frieden (b) (6)>  
**Date:** Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 2:35 PM  
**To:** Tom Frieden (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Nursing homes are ground zero for COVID19 -- and what more we can do to save lives in the pandemic

Dear Colleague,

[Two weeks ago](#) it was clear that COVID-19 would become a pandemic, and, sadly it has.

Now the United States is in the [acceleration phase](#) and cases, clusters, and large outbreaks will occur in many parts of the country.

I outline steps we can take to reduce the harms. The core concept to protect the most vulnerable. First, restrict visits to nursing homes. All of us can play a part reducing infections. Medically vulnerable people can protect themselves by reducing social contacts. I'm not sure I'd go quite as far as my good friend Bill Schaffner and say they should become [semi-hermits](#), but that's certainly a helpful frame of reference. Health care needs to get much safer, and ready to surge safely. And we need to stop mass gatherings, consider telework, figure out whether closing schools will help, and more.

Read what I've posted about ground zero in the COVID-19 pandemic in the US [here](#).

I've shared on [Twitter](#) if you'd like to disseminate.

We'll all be working together to protect as many people as quickly as possible.

Thank you,

Tom