

February 26: In a CDC telebriefing update on COVID-19, NCIRD Director Dr. Nancy Messonnier warns the nation to prepare for community spread. “It’s not so much a question of if this will happen, but when this will happen and how many people in this country will have severe illness.”

March 6: President Trump indicates anyone who needs a COVID-19 test can get one.

March 11: The WHO declares COVID-19 a pandemic.

March 15: States begin to shut down to prevent the spread of COVID-19. New York City public school system shuts down, Ohio calls for restaurants and bars to close.

March 28: The White House extends social distancing measures until the end of April 2020.

April 3: CDC recommends that all people wear a mask when outside of their home.

April 11: All 50 states, DC, USVI, CNMI, Guam, and Puerto Rico are under a disaster declaration simultaneously.

April 30: President Trump launches Operation Warp Speed, an initiative to produce a vaccine for the coronavirus as quickly as possible.

Mid 2020

May 1: The FDA issues an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for investigational antiviral drug remdesivir.

May 2: WHO renews emergency declaration from three months prior calling the pandemic a global public health crisis.

May 28: U.S. COVID-19 death toll surpasses 100,000.

July 27: Pfizer and Moderna each announce the start of their phase 3 clinical trial for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine BNT162b2 and Moderna mRNA-1273 vaccine.

July 29: Dr. Nancy Messonnier speaks to CDC ACIP about proposed plans for COVID-19 vaccine implementation.

Late 2020

October 16: Awardees must submit COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration plans to the CDC.

December 3: CDC ACIP recommends that health care professionals and residents of long-term care facilities be prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccine.