

Biography

Suffering with the debilitating effects and symptoms of Covid-19 for nearly a year, Chimère Smith has had to learn the hard knocks of advocacy in healthcare. While seeking treatment and care, she experienced racial profiling, colorism, and dismissal by several medical professionals.

Chimère is a middle school teacher in Baltimore, who has served as her school's Content Lead, creating innovative teaching strategies for grades 6-12. She was chosen as the Lead of the Middle School Planning Committee by her school's Administrative team to spearhead the planning and execution of the middle school closing ceremonies and high school choice acceptance program. In 2019, Chimère was selected as a Stanford University Hollyhock Teaching Fellow. During the 2018-19 school year, she was the only middle school teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System with 8th grade students showing marked improvement in state standardized testing scores for reading comprehension and writing.

She is a speaker, writer, and thought leader who has recently appeared on [MSNBC Live with Craig Melvin](#), [PBS NewsHour](#), in [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), and [Medium](#). She has been consistently coined as a “passionate patient-led advocate” after using insistent verbal and written communication to attract the attention of local politicians, doctors, and hospital administration to receive life-saving care as she battled Covid-19. Since June 2020, she has used her social media platforms, engagement in grass-root Covid-19 support groups (notably [Body Politic](#) and [BIPOC Women Long Covid “Long Hauler” Support Group](#)), and strong media presence to raise awareness about the importance of Black voices in conversations and organizations on the prevention, treatment, and research of [LongCovid \(or Post-Acute Sequelae Covid\)](#) in urban communities. In December 2020, she was a featured patient-led panelist at the [NIAID workshop on Post-Acute Covid](#). Chimère is an independent member of the [Long Covid Alliance](#), a recently-appointed board member of [Body Politic](#), and has been selected to participate in federally-funded research programs and committees that focus on engaging minority populations in communities hardest hit by Covid and #LongCovid. She is interested in aiding #LongCovid organizations with the development and execution of meaningful, safe, and responsive language and culture that welcomes the experiences, advocacy, and disparities faced by Black stakeholders. She is now learning how to navigate her life, mission, and purpose while managing [#LongCovid](#), which has now left her disabled and depending on government assistance.