

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074
Minority (202) 225-5051

November 21, 2024

Henry Walke, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Office of Readiness and Response
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024
[TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL]

Dear Dr. Walke:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing that was held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, titled "Preparing for the Next Pandemic: Lessons Learned and The Path Forward."

To ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written response to the Committee on or before Thursday, December 5, 2024, including each question in full as well as the name of the member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Marie Policastro, Clerk for the Select Subcommittee, at marie.policastro@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Raul Ruiz, Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

Questions for Dr. Henry Walke
Director of the Office of Readiness and Response
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

November 14, 2024: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing titled
“Preparing for the Next Pandemic: Lessons Learned and The Path Forward”

Questions from Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks

1. Dr. Walke, I appreciate your efforts to ensure the CDC is prepared for the next pandemic. I know it is a matter of time until we face another disease outbreak, but hopefully we can focus on lessons learned from the past several years to improve our ability to catch infectious diseases early and quickly understand their transmission paths. One bright spot from the pandemic was the start of the National Wastewater Surveillance System, which the CDC runs. It began early on under the Trump administration and remains today.
 - Can you speak to the importance of wastewater surveillance in terms of CDC’s readiness and response efforts?
 - Do you believe this program should be a permanent part of CDC’s infectious disease and public health efforts?
 - What type of information can the CDC glean from wastewater samples?
 - How is this helpful for infectious disease and public health?

Questions for Dr. Henry Walke
Director of the Office of Readiness and Response
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

November 14, 2024: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing titled
“Preparing for the Next Pandemic: Lessons Learned and The Path Forward”

Questions from Rep. Michael Cloud

1. Do you still believe that the following COVID-19 mitigation measures endorsed or recommended by the CDC were justified?
 - a. Business closures?
 - b. Church closures?
 - c. School closures?
 - d. Stay at home orders?
 - e. Mask mandates for adults?
 - f. Mask mandates for children?
 - g. Mask mandates for children under age 5?
 - h. Vaccine mandates for employees?
 - i. Vaccine mandates for students?
 - j. Vaccine mandates for the military?
2. In the case of a future pandemic, would you support school closures?
 - a. Mask mandates?
 - b. Mask mandates for children under age 5?
 - c. Vaccine mandates?
 - d. Stay at home orders?
3. A number of prominent social media companies censored information related to COVID-19 that they claimed contradicted “the science,” generally citing the CDC as their authority. The censored information included statements that the virus was the result of a lab leak—which the Department of Energy now considers the most likely origin.

- a. Do you believe taking down disfavored information about COVID was an appropriate response?
4. Did you have any contact with any social media company about censoring or labeling content related to COVID-19?
 - a. If so, what did you advise them?
 - b. Do you stand by that advice?
5. Do you own individual stock in Pfizer, Moderna, or any other pharmaceutical company?
 - a. If so, which companies?
6. Since the beginning of 2020, have you received a royalty payment from any pharmaceutical company?
 - a. If so, which companies?
 - b. What was the amount of each payment?