



We Need Pandemic Solidarity

A Blueprint for the Long Future

Guided by deep love for our ancestors, elders, youth, and all of us living in isolation, we come together as a Black-led multiracial group based in occupied North America representing a tapestry of genders, ages, lived experiences, and abilities. We write this statement to address the mass death, physical and social abandonment, and loss of access to public space during the past four years of the COVID-19 pandemic. The continuation of this pandemic directly ties to violence enacted around the globe in the form of climate collapse, genocide, mass incarceration, and more. We hope this blueprint for true pandemic solidarity will shape how we all address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the pandemics that will inevitably follow.

We must tell the truth about this crisis.

Profit-driven public health guidelines have failed us. Our capitalist governments serve the elites and the economy, *not* the people. They have deprived us of the information, tools, and policies we need to protect ourselves. Instead of providing free high-quality masks, access to updated testing, and supportive workplace protocols, they give us lies to uphold their fragile capitalist system.

We must support our inherent right to health and dignity.

COVID-19 is not mild, not endemic, and not “just a cold.” COVID-19 is a serious disease that harms every part of your body, reactivates dormant viruses, permanently damages your immune system, disables, and kills. New variants, caused by letting the virus spread unmitigated, are not harmless. Vaccines alone are not sufficient to prevent the spread of disease, severe illness, or death. There currently is no cure. Despite this reality, dominant capitalist society tells us it is “unrealistic,” “unnecessary,” or “too difficult” to take any COVID-19 precautions. The ruling class tells us that our health and lives do not matter. We unequivocally reject this narrative.

We must declare that human life is more precious than capitalist economies.

Historically, colonizers and capitalists have weaponized plagues and pandemics to uphold domination. Our current governments and healthcare systems have manufactured consent for mass death, widespread disease, and the abandonment of marginalized communities. We are told to deny the toll that multiple infections have on our bodies and ignore the science that shows we cannot survive endless infections of COVID-19 unscathed. We refuse to be collateral damage.

We must commit to COVID safety for *all* and not just for some.

In opposition to a culture of eugenics, ableism, and racism, we choose to build a world invested in community care and liberation for all peoples. We must defend our right to clean air and protection from deadly diseases in all spaces. COVID-19 mitigations are not restrictions, but necessary acts of radical love and survival that treat each of us as valuable and worthy of protection.

Many of us are experiencing real grief, pain, and betrayal. We invite you to yell, cry, and *act* in solidarity with all of us who have been abandoned. We must implement rigorous and robust precautions that intentionally minimize COVID-19 infections.

We call upon the people of the world to join us in pandemic solidarity for the long future.

In addition to the [10 Actions for Pandemic Solidarity](#) below, we have created guides for [healthcare workers and institutions](#), [guardians of children](#), [leftist spaces](#), and [artists](#).

We encourage you to take these 10 actions and amplify this call for solidarity. May we offer our communities the care and commitment we deserve.

With love and righteous rage,

Pandemic Solidarity for the Long Future

pandemicsolidarity.org

P.S. This blueprint was written by a group of organizers who came together to facilitate Pandemic Solidarity for the Long Future: A Virtual Convening for Black, Brown, Indigenous, Asian, and Pacific Islander Kin Who Give a F#ck in the spring of 2024. This call for pandemic solidarity is one written by and for our communities, particularly those of us who are **trans, gender nonconforming, queer, poor, and disabled** and continue to experience heightened levels of criminalization, interpersonal violence, medical neglect, and mass death. We hope this statement lives far beyond the convening and reminds folks of the necessity of prioritizing pandemic solidarity each and every day into the long future. Love and fortification to all of us who remain committed to giving a f#ck.

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11 Actions for Pandemic Solidarity

While capitalist institutions produce mass illness and death, we must not abandon each other. Together, we have the power to shape our communities. To do so, we must prioritize the health and safety of all our people by committing to these 10 actions:

1. **MASK UP** – Wear high-quality, well-fitted respirator masks (KN95 or better) when sharing air beyond your household to care for your neighbors and yourself.
2. **CLEAN THE AIR** – Clean the air you breathe by utilizing air purifiers, opening windows, upgrading filtration, and monitoring air quality.
3. **TEST OFTEN** – Test frequently and according to best practices before events, after gatherings, and in your daily life with PCR-quality tests where possible. Isolate from others in your home and community if positive or sick.
4. **MAKE A LAYERED PLAN** – Make a COVID-19 safety plan that includes multiple layers of protection, a support crew, and protocols for sickness or a positive test.
5. **SHARE TOOLS** – Share resources such as high-quality masks, updated information from reputable sources, and tests with your loved ones and neighbors.
6. **CHANGE THE NARRATIVE** – Use intentional language to promote COVID-19 safety and combat misinformation, minimizing, and denial in your relationships and communities.
7. **REQUIRE SAFETY** – Require universal masking, testing, and clean air protocols when gathering with friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors to keep everyone safe and not leave anyone out.
8. **PROTECT PUBLIC SPACE** – Demand rigorous and robust COVID-19 safety requirements – including universal masking and clean air protocols – from your workplaces, organizations, healthcare providers, neighborhood shops, and event venues. Boycott those that do not implement them.
9. **DEMAND GOVERNMENTAL PROTECTION** – Demand free, accessible, and updated masks, tests, vaccines, treatments, and clean air tools from your local, state, and federal governments.

10. **REJECT ABLEISM** – Deepen your commitment to disability justice by prioritizing accessibility and showing up for people with various disabilities who often lack access to physical or virtual space due to systemic ableism.

11. **ACT IN SOLIDARITY** – Put your commitment to liberation over convenience by making connections between the pandemic and ongoing liberation struggles across the globe, divesting from all systems of oppression, and supporting groups fighting for just futures.

Healthcare Workers and Institutions

Actions for Pandemic Solidarity

Healthcare workers' essential role in society grants them great power over patients' lives. When healthcare workers and institutions do not take rigorous and robust COVID-19 safety precautions, people get infected, become disabled, and die. Healthcare workers and institutions are responsible for providing quality medical care and accessible, safe environments without putting patients and themselves at risk of COVID-19. Instead of contributing to the spread of disabling disease and causing mass death, healthcare workers and institutions must protect the health of all people by committing to these actions.

Healthcare Workers

1. **REQUIRE MASKS** – Wear high-quality, well-fitted respirator masks (N95 or better) when sharing air, as part of your standard precautions for all patient care.
2. **IMPROVE YOUR IMPACT** - Evaluate the ways your COVID-19 response - including negligence, lack of mitigations, and pandemic denialism - harms patients and make improvements.
3. **STAY INFORMED** – Educate yourself on the latest scientific research on the spread, prevention, and treatment of COVID-19 to better serve patients and yourself.
4. **SHARE THE SCIENCE** – Offer patients accurate and updated scientific information to improve their ability to make well-informed decisions for their health and wellness.
5. **TAKE COVID SERIOUSLY** – Provide thorough, research-backed support to patients concerned about COVID-19, rather than minimizing the illness and its severe impacts.
6. **ENCOURAGE LAYERS OF PROTECTION** – Actively encourage patients to practice rigorous and robust COVID-19 safety protocols - such as masking, testing, and cleaning the air - within and beyond healthcare settings.
7. **LEAD BY EXAMPLE** – Lead by example in your professional and personal life by practicing a layered approach to COVID-19 safety - including wearing high-quality, well-fitted respirator masks, testing regularly, and cleaning the air.

8. **ADVOCATE FOR PROTOCOLS** – Advocate for institutional adoption of COVID-19 safety measures to your managers and employers to support patient care, workplace safety, and disability justice.

9. **SUPPORT ACTIVISM** – Actively support and participate in collective organizing efforts to improve COVID-19 safety in healthcare.

10. **COMBAT INSTITUTIONAL HARM** – Combat the medical industrial complex’s narratives, policies, and practices that perpetuate mass death, widespread disease, and ableism.

Healthcare Institutions

1. **MANDATE MASKS** – Require and provide free high-quality, well-fitted respirator masks (N95 or better) for all people in all patient settings as a new standard of care.

2. **CLEAN THE AIR** – Provide upgraded ventilation and filtration in hospitals, clinics, offices, and all medical facilities to uphold duty of care.

3. **FUND PROTECTIONS** – Proactively include PPE and other COVID-19 safety needs in your annual budget.

4. **FUND RESEARCH** – Support research on new vaccines, treatments, and the long-term impacts of COVID-19.

5. **CHANGE THE SYSTEM** – Combat the medical industrial complex narratives, policies, and practices that perpetuate mass death, widespread disease, and ableism.

Guardians, Educators, & Caretakers of Children



Actions for Pandemic Solidarity

Adults' collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic threatens and undermines children's liberation, autonomy, and self-determination. The reckless and negligent decisions adults make daily during this ongoing pandemic contribute to the mass death and disabling of children across the globe. Children, who are often denied agency over their own lives, must be prioritized, emboldened, and recognized as comrades who are also being harmed and exploited by those invested in COVID-19 denialism. Instead of abandoning the children in our lives, adults must offer them the care, protection, and solidarity that they deserve and need to survive and thrive.

1. **PRACTICE SAFETY TOGETHER** – Teach and practice consistent COVID-19 safety – including wearing a high-quality, well-fitted respirator mask, testing frequently, and improving ventilation – for yourself and the children in your life.
2. **LEARN THE FACTS** – Read, listen to, and share reputable and science-based resources to learn about the serious health risks that COVID-19 infections pose for children.
3. **APOLOGIZE AND AMEND** – Apologize to the children in your lives for the ways your negligence, lack of COVID-19 protections, and pandemic denialism have harmed them, and do better.
4. **TALK ABOUT COVID-19** – Start conversations with children about how the pandemic has affected their lives, how consent and COVID-19 safety are connected, and what helps them to feel safe and cared for by adults.
5. **MAKE A CARE PLAN** – Make a plan to address long-term health needs that may arise for children who have lived through COVID-19 infections by consulting the guidance of children, disabled and immunocompromised folks, healers, and scientists.
6. **CHANGE THE NARRATIVE** – Tell the truth in your relationships and communities that COVID-19 harms children and COVID-19 safety saves lives.

7. **DEMAND PROTECTION** – Demand that schools, community centers, and other spaces provide safe environments by requiring universal masking, improved ventilation and filtration, and policies that encourage staying home when sick.

8. **BOYCOTT UNSAFE SPACES** – Boycott schools, community centers, and other spaces where children gather that do not implement rigorous and robust COVID-19 safety protocols.

9. **FIGHT TO FREE CHILDREN** – Demand the release of all children held captive by the state in prisons, “immigrant detention centers,” and “psychiatric institutions” who have even less control over their environments than their peers.

10. **ACT IN SOLIDARITY** – Practice solidarity with children by challenging systems that marginalize them, supporting groups fighting for just futures, and connecting children’s liberation to other liberation struggles across the globe.

Leftist Organizations & Community Spaces

Actions for Pandemic Solidarity

Our social justice organizing homes have abandoned our people and our politics, depriving community members of necessary space, support, and solidarity. These groups have a responsibility to do what is needed, rather than what's popular. Instead of continuing a careless, neglectful response to COVID-19, social justice organizations and spaces that claim to care about liberation must commit to protecting all our people and building principled movements.

1. **REQUIRE MASKS** – Require and provide high-quality, well-fitted respirator masks (KN95 or better) to all of our folks at direct actions, meetings, and all indoor and outdoor gatherings.
2. **CLEAN THE AIR** – Implement rigorous and robust clean air protocols – including using air purifiers, opening windows, and hosting outside – for all in-person gatherings.
3. **REQUIRE REGULAR TESTING** – Provide and require COVID-19 testing - with PCR-quality tests where possible - before all in-person gatherings and daily for all multi-day events. Implement thorough contact tracing to alert attendees of confirmed exposures after an event.
4. **BUDGET FOR SAFETY** – Act on your values by proactively including PPE and other COVID-19 safety needs – such as HEPA filters, molecular tests, and online video-conferencing software – into your annual organizational budget.
5. **PUT PEOPLE OVER PROFIT** - Center the health of our people by implementing science-backed COVID-19 safety policies - including universal masking and clean air protocols - instead of harmful guidelines that center capitalism and profit.
6. **CHANGE THE NARRATIVE** - Tell the truth within your groups and communities to let people know that we are not “post-pandemic” and COVID-19 is not over.
7. **STOP PRIORITIZING SMILES** – Do not encourage dangerous masklessness in the name of “visibility,” “bravery,” or “connection.” Implement universal masking instead.
8. **KEEP US SAFE FOR REAL** – Prioritize COVID-19 safety protocols to protect the wellbeing of our whole community. COVID-19 is a preventable disease, and it takes all of us to keep each other safe!

9. **SUPPORT COMMUNITY ACTION** – Support mask blocs and other groups that have been keeping people safe throughout the pandemic by amplifying their work, donating funds, and lending your time.

10. **ACT IN SOLIDARITY** – Put your commitment to liberation over convenience by making connections between the pandemic and ongoing liberation struggles across the globe, challenging all systems of oppression, and collaborating with groups prioritizing pandemic safety.

Artists & Creatives

Actions for Pandemic Solidarity

As artists, it is our imperative to reflect the times and influence the culture. We must tell the truth about the gravity of this ongoing pandemic rather than obscuring reality. We must resist the pressure to work in-person without necessary protections against infection, chronic illness, and death. Instead of perpetuating behaviors, policies, and storytelling that blatantly disregard COVID-19, we must embrace new ways of art-making that prioritize safety and accessibility for all.

1. **MASK UP** – Wear a high-quality, well-fitted respirator mask (KN95 or better) all the time when you perform, rehearse, showcase work, and attend shows.
2. **REQUIRE SAFETY** – Require universal masking, testing, and clean air protocols – such as upgraded filtration, air purifiers, and open windows – at in-person rehearsals, meetings, performances, and other events you organize or attend.
3. **KEEP ART ONLINE** – Advocate for, participate in, and create fully virtual and hybrid performance opportunities and arts spaces.
4. **CREATE PANDEMIC ART** – Create art that engages with the realities of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to resist erasure, denialism, and the rewriting of history.
5. **INCORPORATE MASKING** – Make consistent masking an active part of your art.
6. **MAKE IT OFFICIAL** – Require COVID-19 safety measures as part of your contracts and riders.
7. **DEMAND INSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION** – Demand rigorous and robust COVID-19 safety requirements – including universal masking, filtration, and ventilation – from arts organizations and institutions.
8. **BOYCOTT UNSAFE SPACES** – Boycott groups that do not implement rigorous and robust COVID safety protocols.
9. **FEATURE PANDEMIC ART** – Demand that arts groups, funders, and organizations include art that engages with the ongoing pandemic in their programming.
10. **ART IN SOLIDARITY** – Use your art in solidarity with people’s liberation movements.