

July 26, 2023

Dear Senators Warren, Duckworth, Van Hollen, and Blumenthal,

Thank you for your interest in the work of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) and for your commitment to saving lives by helping to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent complications from long COVID.

We recognize that COVID-19 remains a serious public health issue, and like you, the Task Force cares deeply about improving the health of people nationwide. While the COVID-19 public health emergency is officially over, we understand the need to retain access to tests and timely treatment for COVID-19.

In response to your request, we are convening the full Task Force to discuss this issue and determine whether and how COVID-19 screening might be considered within the Task Force's scope. As you know, the Task Force recommendations are based on a review of the currently available high-quality scientific evidence on preventive services that take place in, or are referred to from, the primary care setting. Additionally, our recommendations only apply to people who do not have any signs or symptoms of disease. We are exploring how testing for COVID-19 might fit within parameters like these that govern the Task Force's work.

We will be back in touch with a more complete response by the end of the month per your request. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let us know, and we are happy to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Barry, M.D.

Wanda Nicholson, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.

Michael Silverstein, M.D., M.P.H.

*U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Chairs*