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Ten positive patients in 24 hrs; All vaccinated; On Line vaccine passport available

Patient after patient of mine became COVID positive in the last 24 hrs. All of them are eligible for treatment as they have significant chronic illnesses but none have needed hospitalization. In an effort to avoid hospitalization, several were lucky to get outpatient medication. The rest received nothing as we've run out of the medication in our part of the state.

With Massachusetts hospitalization rates now climbing higher than last winter, four leaders of hospitals and health systems [say](#) their workers have done their part — and now it's time for the public to do its part by getting vaccinated, boosted, and wearing masks. “We are here for you and your families, whether you have been vaccinated or not. We will do our part; we ask that you do yours,” they said in a Globe op-ed. The state reported Thursday that 2,524 patients with COVID-19 were in the hospital. That exceeds the peak during last winter's deadly surge of 2,428 on Jan. 4, 2021. COVID-19 deaths are up 33% in past 14 days, averaging 42 per day. The only positive of Omicron is in an [recent Axios survey](#) 30% of unvaccinated respondents said Omicron makes them more likely to get the vaccine (one patient of mine yesterday), up from 19% in Dec.

The net result could be like what has just occurred in Arizona and [elsewhere](#) throughout the country: Health system in Arizona announced that they will allow employees who are experiencing mild COVID symptoms or are asymptomatic to [keep working](#).

On January 6 2021 a mob attacked the U.S. Capitol. On January 6 2022, JAMA published a set of articles ([pandemic preparedness](#), [new therapeutics](#), and [reimagining public health](#)) that amounted to an “[extraordinary, albeit polite, critique](#)” of much of President Biden's COVID policy. Vaccine passport [availability](#) for me is just one of many examples. Yet, Justin Feldman a week ago [published](#) a long piece entitled: “A year in, how has Biden done on pandemic response”. His analysis (I completely agree with) documents how the JAMA articles simply do not go far enough in their public health recommendations. To make it simple he asks the following set of questions: How did we get to a point where a key organizer of the Great Barrington Declaration, a right-wing libertarian campaign opposed to public health measures, [has stated](#) that Republican and Democratic states alike have adopted policies in line with their philosophy? For example, in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) which passed with no Republican support, the Rockefeller Foundation estimated that widespread covid testing in schools would cost [\\$8.5 billion per month](#).

The ARP allocated \$10 billion total, one time, for school testing; Funding was not contingent on adopting particular public health policies or triggered by increases in viral transmission.

If the Build Back Better is ever passed, a little noticed provision will have a big impact: Among the bill's more important changes is one that would finally close the Medicaid coverage gap in those 12 non-expansion states. This means that we would get closer than ever to universal health insurance coverage. But at the end of the day, we need to first effectively address the COVID pandemic. Otherwise we will [turn off](#) voters. AND will continue to focus on COVID and ways of addressing American fragility. This week I will address it in two presentations. You can sign up for one of them [here](#).