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Reminder: Webinar Wed 730-830. Changed Log In. Covid still here!

Most importantly: there is a **changed log- in** for Wednesday's webinar : *Engaging Social Media; How You Can Get the Attention of Policymakers and Electoral Candidates*

Jeff Lerner PhD, President Emeritus, ECRI and adjunct senior fellow, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics of the University of Pennsylvania; AND consultant; director of AND PA

Dan Stone MD: Medical Director Cedars Sinai Hospital Los Angeles, CA AND Consultant

Gail Wilensky PhD Project Hope and CMS Administrator President GHW Bush, AND Board of Advisors

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rc-ioqT4tG9UrKNKBMfyOqAOrwWsdjxUA>

After registering, you will receive confirmation plus information about joining the meeting. Even if you can't make it, please register. Not a health professional? Send it to health professionals you know!

I had one breakthrough COVID patient in the past week. Symptomatically it is clear, she is on the way to developing Long Covid – a disease about which we know very little. Was able to convince several unvaccinated patients to take the first jab. But the illness is still very much in evidence. A recent good summary [article](#): “The [United States is nearing](#) 1 million reported deaths on its own, **the largest official death toll in the world**. As death rates remain high in Poland, Hungary, Romania and other Eastern European countries, the region has seen more than 1.5 million refugees arrive from [war-torn Ukraine](#), a country with poor vaccination coverage and high rates of cases and deaths. An [analysis of excess deaths](#) by a team at The Economist estimates that the number of Covid-19 deaths is between 14 million and 23.5 million. Overall, some 450 million cases of Covid-19 have been recorded.”

Three Covid policy approaches have emerged in recent days. Many Republicans would like to simply end the pandemic response and minimize preparedness. Biden has [proposed](#) a detailed approach that hits all the key points and is short on specifics – workplace/school safety; national preparedness for the next pandemic/wave; with minimal attention to global health vaccine access. Others have written with [specifics](#) that we need to do more both nationally and internationally particularly around global vaccine access, much improved ventilation, and an aggressive plan to deal with Long Covid. All plans are short on systematically addressing global vaccine access right now. These plans also do not systematically address within the U.S., the need to engage community health workers as a key part of a future strategy, the ongoing [dramatic impact](#) that Covid has had on the poor, or the [vaccine/Covid](#)

[misinformation](#) that has killed so many. Last week a physician leader of vaccine information [pleaded guilty](#) to participating in the January 6 attack on the Capitol. With Senate Republicans [unlikely to be supportive](#) of any additional funds let alone comprehensive plans, it will be again up to the states to take the lead – either in favor or against a public health approach. Nevada [last week](#) joined a several state consortium’s effort to control pharmaceutical prices.

Health professionals have credibility with the public. 2022 is an election year. The best way for us to respond is to be engaged in the political process in whichever way we feel comfortable and have fun. Hope to see many of you this Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Even if you can’t make it, please register and we will send you the recording.

Norbert Goldfield, M.D.