

## Top Ways The ACA Helps Fight Coronavirus

- **Coverage for 20+ Million People.** Because of the ACA, more than 20 million Americans [gained](#) health coverage. People with insurance are much more likely to see a doctor when they are sick and to get the treatment they need.
- **Protections For 135 Million People With Pre-Existing Conditions.** Thanks to the ACA, insurers can no longer deny or drop coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Anyone who contracts the coronavirus will not be subject to future discrimination from their insurance companies.
- **Free Preventative Care.** Because of the ACA, health plans must cover designated preventive services — including screening tests without cost-sharing.
- **Comprehensive Coverage.** Because of the ACA, insurers have to cover what are known as “essential health benefits,” such as prescription drugs and hospitalization. Coronavirus testing and treatment are essential health benefits and must be covered by all ACA-compliant plans.
- **Access To Critical Vaccinations Without Cost Sharing.** The Affordable Care Act will almost certainly cover the coronavirus vaccine without cost-sharing, because it requires plans to cover all vaccinations recommended by the CDC’s [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#).
- **Increased CDC Funding.** The Affordable Care Act established the CDC Prevention and Public Health Fund, which helps states prepare for disease outbreaks. The Washington Post [reported](#) that this fund “provides almost \$1 billion annually to CDC, now about 12 percent of CDC’s budget. It includes prevention of bioterrorism and disease outbreaks, as well as money to provide immunizations and heart-disease screenings.”
- **Medicaid Expansion.** Because of the ACA, states can get additional federal money to expand Medicaid to vulnerable populations. More than 17 million Americans now have coverage [through](#) Medicaid expansion. Importantly, Medicaid’s funding structure allows funds to increase in response to a public health emergency like coronavirus.
- **Key Support For Rural Hospitals.** The ACA led to a \$12 billion reduction in uncompensated care costs. Between 2013 and 2015, hospitals’ uncompensated care costs decreased by [\\$12 billion](#), or roughly 30 percent. As hospitals prepare for an influx in patients, it is critical that they are paid for the treatment they provide.