



## Pandemic: Preparing for a New Normal (2022 Update)

Featuring Anthony Iton, MD, JD, MPH

### IN THIS EPISODE

What human behaviors lead to pandemics like COVID-19? **Why should we expect to face more pandemics in the future? And how can we best prepare for them?** Join host **Brenda Gazzar** and **Dr. Tony Iton**, senior vice president for healthy communities at The California Endowment, as they discuss the critical role public health policies play in our response to infectious diseases. Why does it matter how we incentivize our healthcare system? **And how could Medicare for All help us respond to future crises?**

### SHOW NOTES

### WE DISCUSS

#### *What's the link between climate change and pandemics?*

"Climate change is forcing a lot of those kinds of interactions, both from people consuming wood and deforesting wild environments as well as temperature change, which is driving wild animals in search of food or in search of water into closer contact with human beings. And of course you have vectors like mosquitoes and rodents and the like which can also facilitate the transmission of these viruses from animals to humans." – *Dr. Tony Iton*

## ***How does the U.S. response to COVID-19 compare to our response to H1N1 in 2009?***

“The failures that we had in this outbreak in testing supplies was not the first time we’ve seen that. We saw these very same failures in 2009. They didn’t have the same consequences but the delays in CDC and the federal government authorizing tests and facilitating testing standards to get to public health labs and the private labs happened exactly the same way in 2009. It’s like *deja vu*.” – *Dr. Tony Iton*

## ***What are the economic incentives that influence the corporate healthcare marketplace and how do they affect our readiness for future pandemics?***

“For the not-for-profit ones, it's basically survival in a competitive market. For the for-profit one, it's shareholder value. If that's the goal of your system, your system is not going to want to make the kinds of investments in redundant capacity that's necessary for something like a pandemic. It's not going to want to make the kind of investments that are necessary for public health surveillance.” – *Dr. Tony Iton*

## **Helpful Links**

[\*\*Just-In-Time Versus Just-In-Case Pandemic Preparedness\*\*](#), Health Affairs

[\*\*Employment-Based, For-Profit Health Care in a Pandemic\*\*](#), The Hastings Center Report

[\*\*Analysis: How For-Profit Health Care Worsened the Pandemic\*\*](#), Public Citizen

[\*\*Hospitals Serving the Poor Struggled During COVID. Wealthy Hospitals Made Millions\*\*](#), All Things Considered, NPR

[\*\*Cal-Care, AB 1400\*\*](#), Guaranteed Health Care for All Act

# Episode Transcript

Read the full episode [transcript](#).

## Guest Biography

[Anthony Iton, MD, JD, MPH](#)

Senior Vice President, The California Endowment

Formerly Director and Health Officer, Alameda County Public Health Department

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[Join Health Care for All California](#) to keep up with local actions to support California single-payer health care.

[Join Healthy California Now](#) - a coalition working toward a California single-payer system. Individual and organizational membership available

[Join Physicians for a National Health Program](#) (PNHP) to join the national campaign to improve and expand Medicare to all residents of the U.S.