

# The five phases of pandemic care for primary care

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The authors present a roadmap for necessary primary care practice transformations to care for patients and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes to U.S. [primary health care](#) will occur in five phases, according to the authors. The first three phases describe the transformation of [primary care](#) to accommodate COVID-19 testing and triage, as well as virtual visits and targeted outreach to patients with chronic conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 complications.

Many U.S. communities are grappling with the fourth phase, recovery after acute care, as primary care provides rehabilitation and recovery services to COVID-19-positive patients after hospital discharge.

The fifth phase of the authors' model addresses the indirect consequences of this pandemic, including worsening [mental health](#), substance misuse, delay of patient's traditional care, as well as social and environmental health risks like domestic violence, housing, and food and financial insecurity. The paper provides a framework and strategies to spur long-term change and evolution of the U.S. health care system.

**More information:** Alex H. Krist et al. Redesigning Primary Care to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Midst of the Pandemic, *The Annals of Family Medicine* (2020). [DOI: 10.1370/afm.2557](https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.2557)

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