

PUBLIC HEALTH IN DISASTERS: “THE INVISIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS”

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Ethics Grand Rounds, UT Southwestern Medical Center

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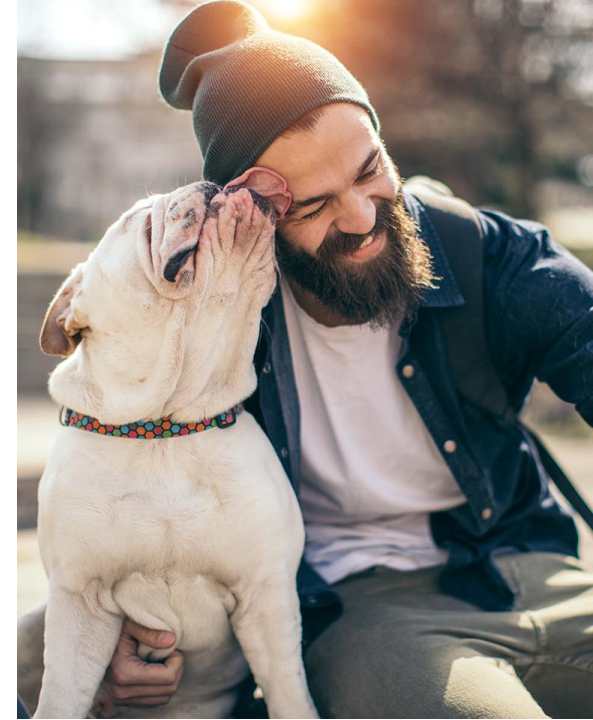


WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

*“What we as a society do
collectively
to assure the conditions in which
people can be healthy.”*



-The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century,
Institute of Medicine, 2003



Public Health =
Building a Healthy Community



PUBLIC HEALTH IS...

- Where people **Live**
- Where people **Learn**
- Where people **Work**
- Where people **Worship**
- Where people **Play**



Health

Where Equity, Innovation and Engagement meet.



Reproductive Health • Air and Water Quality • Smoking • Social Connectedness
Food Access • Drug Use • Unemployment • Poverty • Income
Obesity • Alcohol Use • Insurance • Housing • Inequality
Violence • Injury • Mental Health • Primary care
Crime • Commuting
Exercise

**Local,
State and
National
Context**



FACTORS IN HEALTH



**Policy,
Laws and
Regulations**

Healthy People . . . Healthy Communities

Washington Department of Health Initiatives



Disease Control & Health Statistics

Measles Control
EndAIDS
Vital Statistics
(E. coli, mumps, etc.)



Environmental Public Health

Puget Sound Cleanup
PFAS
Pesticide Exposures



Prevention and Community Health

Tobacco 21
Immunization Rates
Family Planning (Title X)
Marijuana Prevention



Health Systems Quality Assurance

Opioids
Behavioral Health Integration
Certificate of Need
Health Professions

Select Washington Department of Health Secretary Priorities

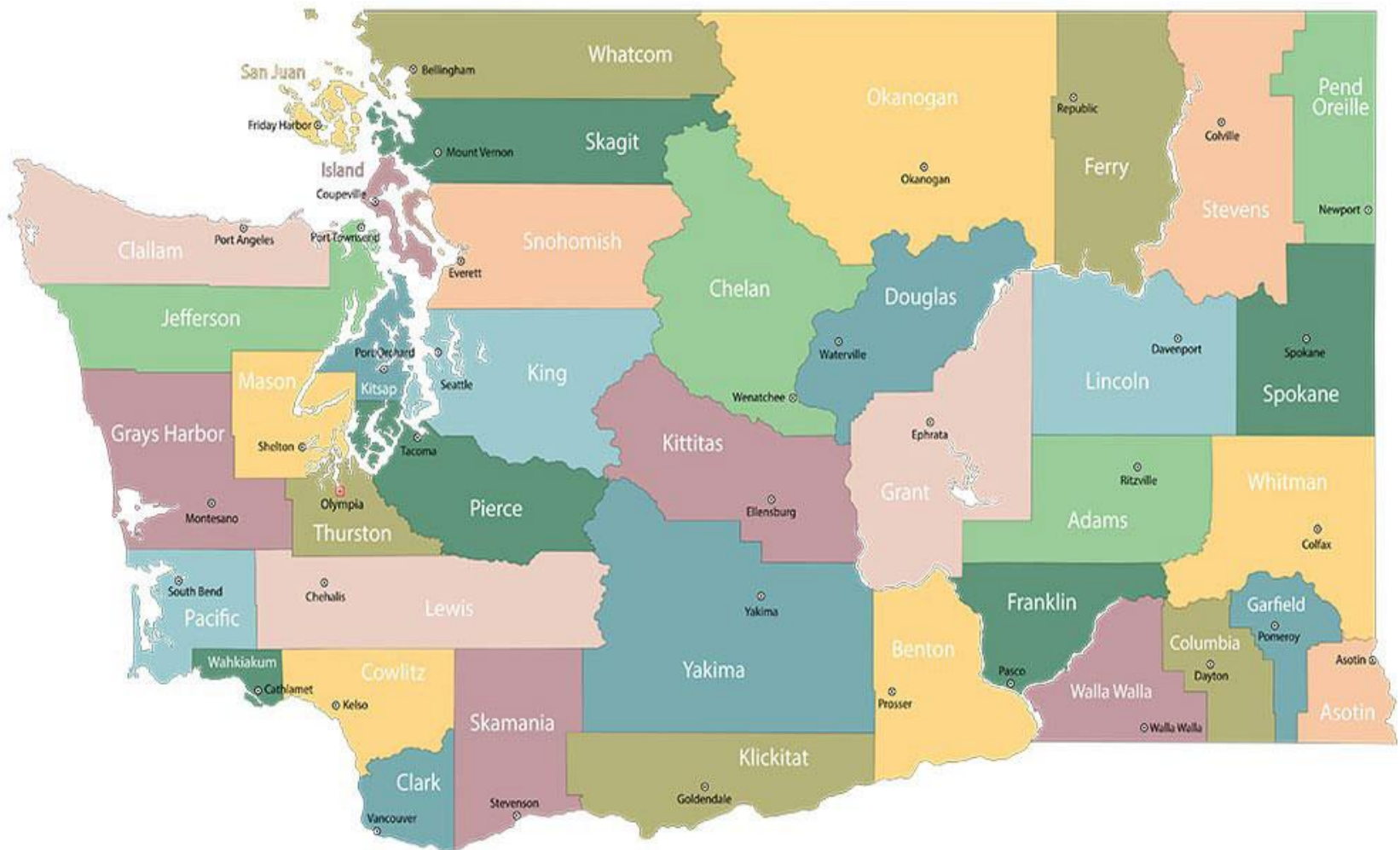
COVID-19 and Health Transformation

1. Innovation
2. Engagement
3. Equity
4. Partnership
5. Capacity building
6. Global and domestic health



Telling the Story and Value of Public Health

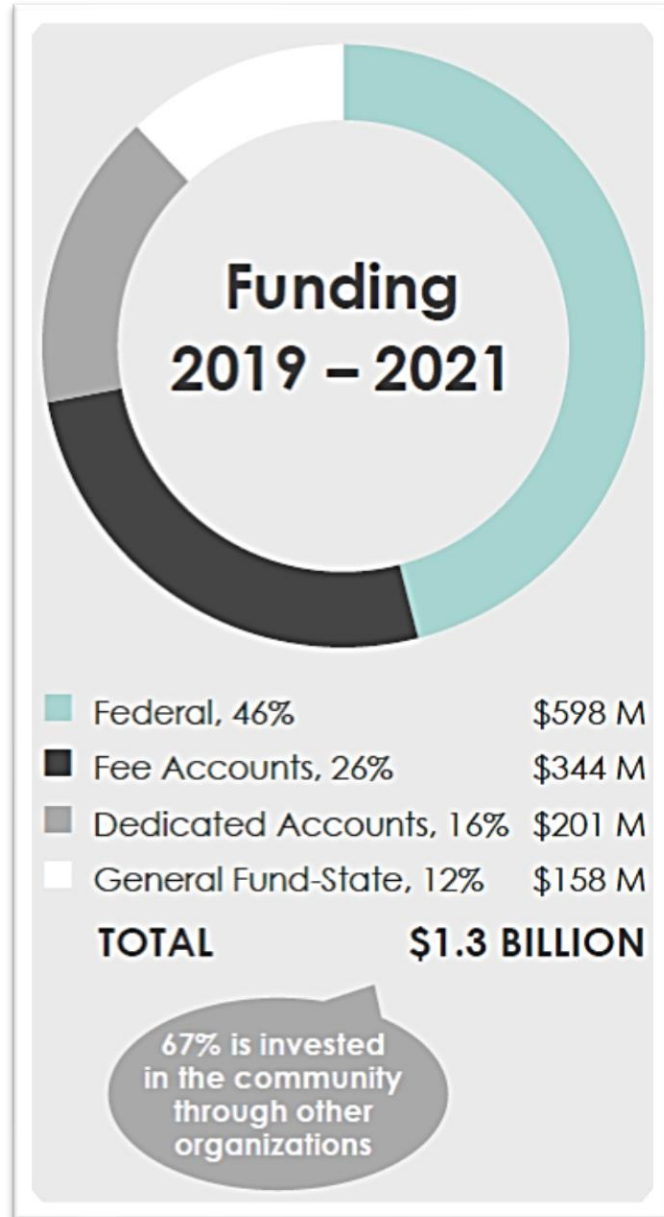
Washington state at a glance



Washington State is home to more than 7.66 million people, about 60% of whom reside in King County alone. Thirty-nine counties cover 71,362 square miles.

DOH at a glance

Public health is essential every day. In 2019, nearly **2,700** DOH employees ensured:



160,504

water samples were evaluated for contaminants

1,016

cases of foodborne illness were investigated

167,512

newborn blood samples were tested for congenital disorders

254,216

women and children were given WIC nutritional and breastfeeding support

12,379

shellfish water samples were analyzed for contaminants

1,214

farmworker housing inspections were performed

86%

of kindergartners were immunized per current standards

22,183

health care providers were enrolled in the Prescription Monitoring Program

477,836

health care providers were licensed

1,860

licensed health care facilities were inspected for patient safety

498,257

families who received Child Profile mailings

English - 471,413
Español - 26,844

90

farmer markets accepted fruit & vegetable vouchers from SNAP participants

298,543

290,968

births
deaths
birth and death certificates were issued



DOH in action!



Stages of COVID-19



**MONITORING AROUND
THE WORLD**



**COVID-19 IN
OUR REGION**



**SLOWING THE
SPREAD**



REOPENING

MOVING FORWARD...



Robust COVID-19 Response: Communication, Coordination and Collaboration

Key Efforts



Image: Ceremony honors Washington National Guard soldiers and airmen who performed contact tracing for the Washington State Department of Health

1. Data Monitoring
2. Timely Testing
3. Epidemiologic Investigation
4. Contact Tracing
5. Expedient Quarantine and Isolation
6. Healthcare and Hospital Support and Therapeutics
7. Communications and Community Engagement
8. Messaging the 3 Ws (Wear Mask, Wash Hands, Watch Distance)
9. Financial and Social Supports
10. Vaccines and Process of Assuring Vaccinations



Public Health
and Medicine
in Time of Crisis

Public Health
challenges
and solutions
do not
recognize
borders



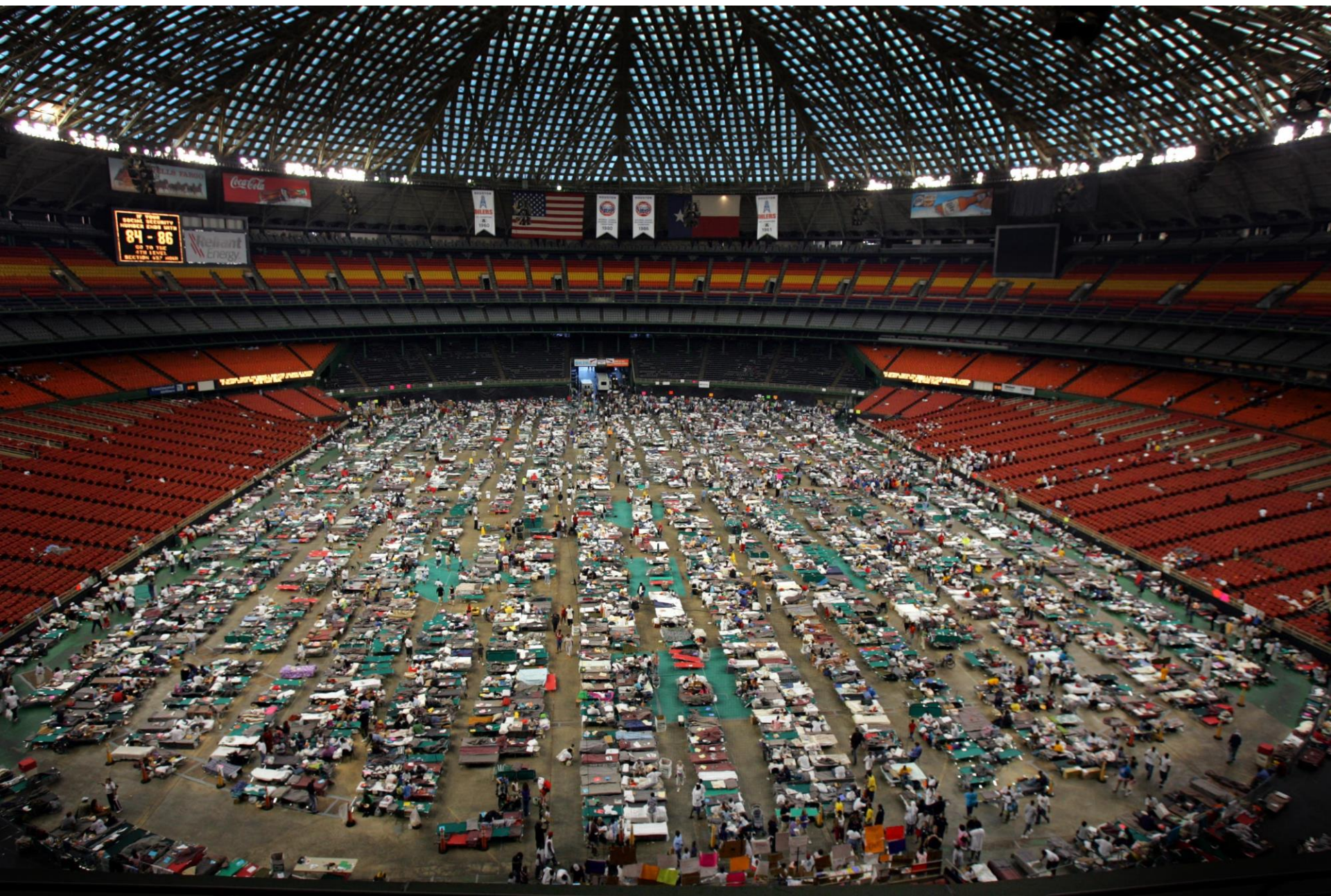


Photo credit: Time





“Statistics are human beings with the tears wiped off.”

– Sir Austin Bradford Hill



*“We have spent
years collecting the
dots; now it is time
to connect them.”*





HCPH Testing Sites - Deer Park & Katy



The New York Times Magazine

FEATURE

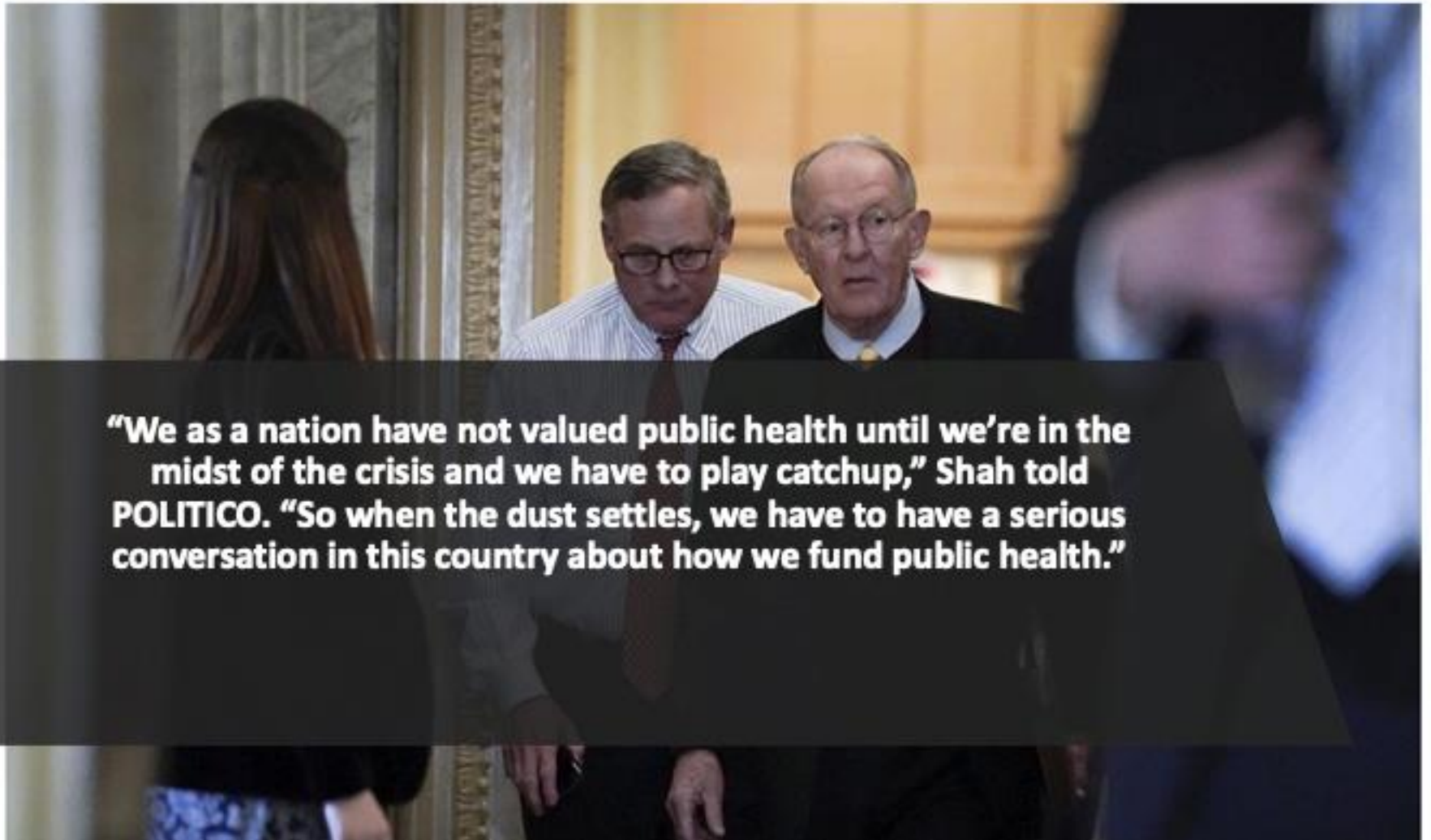
Why We're Losing the Battle With Covid-19

The escalating crisis in Texas shows how the chronic underfunding of public health has put America on track for the worst coronavirus response in the developed world.

CONGRESS

'There is no surge plan': Despite warnings, Congress failed to fully fund pandemics bill

Public-health experts complained that budget cuts were undermining preparedness. Congress did not take heed.



"We as a nation have not valued public health until we're in the midst of the crisis and we have to play catchup," Shah told POLITICO. "So when the dust settles, we have to have a serious conversation in this country about how we fund public health."

'You don't expect to be so vilified': The strange turn the pandemic took for public health workers

Nov. 20, 2020 at 5:30 pm | Updated Nov. 21, 2020 at 10:40 am



Protesters gather in front of Spokane Regional Health District Health Officer, Dr. Bob Lutz's house on Friday, July 17, 2020. About thirty... (Colin Mulvany/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW) More ▾

AP

Pandemic backlash jeopardizes public health powers, leaders

Pandemic backlash jeopardizes public health powers, leaders

By ANNA MARIA BARRY-JESTER, HANNAH RECHT, MICHELLE R. SMITH, and LAUREN WEBER December 11, 2020



FUTURE STATE: LOOKING AHEAD

A well recognized and well-resourced public health system that is strong, adaptable and responsive to community needs.



Public Health Just Makes “Common Sense” *... And It Takes a Village...*



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**Mask Up,
Washington.**

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