



***Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.***

There are a number of federal agencies that continually work to fulfill the goals and purposes of government as set out in the [Preamble](#) to the U.S. Constitution. The COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus pandemic has drawn attention to the work being done by federal agencies to fulfill the goal of the government to ‘promote the general welfare’. The Food and Drug Administration is one of these agencies.

Many Americans have become aware of the role that the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) plays in providing guidance for the government’s approach to the pandemic. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has an equally important role as the CDC.



The FDA regulates prescription and nonprescription drugs, medical devices and radiation equipment. Agency personnel also decide whether and when a vaccine is safe, effective, pure and potent enough to be used for medical purposes. It is the responsibility of the FDA to decide the safety of medical treatments that could be used against COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus, though ultimately the decision for treatment is up to a doctor and her patient.

**The FDA “is responsible for protecting the public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and by ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.”**



The importance of the Food and Drug Administration in promoting the general welfare cannot be understated. The FDA was created through the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906. Prior to its creation, there was very little regulation of what was done with or to food, beverages, or medication. The FDA ensures that these products contain ingredients that are safe for human consumption and help people.

It is the responsibility of the FDA to protect society by approving and regulating food, beverages, and medication, including a COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus vaccine. The FDA ensures that the general welfare aligns with personal welfare

"The Poison Squad", U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

### **To Think and To Do:**

**How is the work of the FDA a reflection of the goal to ‘promote the general welfare’?**

**Learn MORE** about the FDA and the purposes of government. Free registration may be required.

- [Preamble of the U.S. Constitution](#), from Civics360
- [The FDA and Coronavirus](#), from the Food and Drug Administration
- [Muckraking and the Meatpacking Industry](#), from the Constitutional Rights Foundation

