



CIVICS IN REAL LIFE

National Institutes of Health


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.

The **Preamble** to the US Constitution explains the goals and purposes of government. Among these goals is to promote the general welfare. During an event like COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus, the government’s actions to combat the virus show ‘promote the general welfare’ in action.

The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, like the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, is tasked with helping to ensure the general welfare of U.S. citizens and residents through science and research. The mission of the NIH is to “seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.”






During this pandemic, the National Institutes of Health serves as a key organizer of **scientific research**. Together with national and global partners, the NIH is developing treatments and a vaccine for the COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus. In this way, the NIH works to ensure that the federal government meets its inherent obligation to promote the general welfare of the people of the United States.

To Do and To Think: How is support for the general welfare of the public reflected in the work of the National Institutes of Health and similar organizations?

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COVID-19 Research

Study finds coronavirus stable for hours on surfaces, remaining active:


	Stainless steel for 2-3 days		Copper for 4 hours
	Plastic for 2-3 days		Aerosols for up to 3 hours
	Cardboard for up to 24 hours	These times will vary under real-world conditions.	

nih.gov/coronavirus

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 National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

Know the Science



nccih.nih.gov/health/know-science

Learn MORE about the National Institutes of Health and the purposes of government. Free registration may be required.

- [Preamble of the US Constitution](#), from Civics360
- [NIH Director's Blog](#), from the National Institutes of Health
- [The Purposes of Government](#), from Ben's Guide to Government



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