



***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.***

President Trump established the [White House Coronavirus Task Force](#) to guide the federal response to the COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus pandemic. The power to create task forces draws on the president’s [Article II powers](#). Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution allows the president to “require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices,” which includes Cabinet members, who head executive departments. Article II, Section 3 speaks to the president's power to convene and report to Congress issues that concern him. It is under this authority that President Trump created the White House Coronavirus Task Force.



**According to the Task Force website: The White House Coronavirus Task Force will lead the Administration’s efforts to monitor, contain, and mitigate the spread of the virus, while ensuring that the American people have the most accurate and up-to-date health and travel information.**

The White House Coronavirus Task Force is charged with “...leading the United States Government response to the novel 2019 coronavirus...” and is coordinated by the National Security Council. Like other presidential task forces, it is made up of experts and officials from across the executive branch, and helps the president and his advisors make informed decisions on issues.

Task forces play a significant role within the executive branch. They help the president carry out his constitutional obligations and make decisions intended to serve the needs of the nation.

**To Think and To Do:** Presidents are not the only ones who organize task forces. State constitutions often have similar powers for their executive branch. Does your [state](#) have a task force to address COVID-19/Novel coronavirus? If so, research your state’s task force to answer these questions: (a) Who has the authority to create the task force? (b) What are some actions the task force has taken? (c) Who serves on the task force? (d) Why might participants have been chosen for the task force?

**Learn MORE** about Article II of the U.S. Constitution and task forces. Free registration may be required.

- [Articles I, II, and III](#), from Civics360
- [Governors and COVID-19](#), from National Governor's Association
- [White House Coronavirus Task Force Information](#), from The White House and CDC

