Leaders Expect Bumpy Road Ahead

The U.S. economy has started to reopen as the impact of COVID-19 gradually subsides, but four of five senior health care leaders surveyed recently expect a significant spike in cases in their regions by fall, and more than 74% do not believe an effective vaccine will be widely available until after July 1, 2021. However, nearly 61% believe an effective testing system will be offered by multiple providers in their areas between July and the end of this year.

These were just a few of the findings from a survey of more than 1,200 senior global health care leaders who took part in the World Medical Innovation Forum, hosted by Mass General Brigham. Survey participants — CEOs, CMOs, physicians, researchers and others — also expect COVID-19’s impact on society to be deep and long-lasting. Fully half of respondents expect society to be materially diminished (e.g., structural unemployment, reduced optimism), while 39% expect it to improve with a greater focus on wellness and a sense of community.

Respondents also are convinced that over the next five years, both private and government-funded investment in infectious disease research and monitoring will increase. And more than four out of five respondents expect funding to increase by 10% or more in these areas.

9 Ways Virus May Turn U.S. Health Care On Its Head

STAT recently surveyed a host of prominent health policy experts — top health advisers to both Republican and Democratic presidents, lawmakers, executives, physicians and top lobbyists — who forecast a new status quo that they believe will upend what American health care looks like for decades. Among their predictions: The pandemic could help bring about an end to the American tradition of tying health insurance to employment status. It could prompt a reckoning about why African Americans and other historically marginalized populations have long suffered so disproportionately — not just from COVID-19, but from nearly every common health condition. And it could represent the beginning of the end for the very concept of nursing homes and assisted-living facilities.

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