

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways & Means  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways & Means  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Neal and Pallone, and Ranking Members Brady and McMorris Rodgers:

Thank you for your continued efforts and leadership in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We are a group of infection prevention experts and medical professionals who have joined together to raise awareness about the benefits of nasal decolonization as a vital component of infection prevention programs. As your committees consider additional legislation to protect the public health, we strongly urge you to include language promoting public awareness of all scientifically proven infection mitigation practices, including nasal sanitization.

The nose is a recognized primary reservoir for infection-causing pathogens and, as such, acts as a portal for disease transmission. Currently, nasal decolonization is recommended by the CDC for health care settings and is in use by thousands of hospitals to reduce infection risk for surgical patients and others at high risk.<sup>1</sup> It has been demonstrated in numerous cases that implementing broad nasal decolonization protocols in the health care setting has reduced patient morbidity and mortality, shortened length of stay due to infection-related complications, as well as cut down on hospital readmissions.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, nasal decolonization is shown to reduce secondary bacterial infections associated with influenza infection and—in some cases—COVID-19 infection.<sup>3,4</sup>

Due in large part to recommendation by health professionals, millions of working Americans already recognize the benefits of nasal sanitization, including those in professional sports, emergency first responders, the aviation industry, educational facilities and in manufacturing. Importantly, there are now over-the-counter, FDA-regulated, topical nasal antiseptics, including an alcohol-based nasal antiseptic, proven to kill organisms on the skin of the nasal vestibule in the same manner as hand sanitizer kills organisms on the hands.<sup>5</sup> Since topical nasal antiseptics are applied to the skin, they are regulated under the same FDA monograph as hand sanitizer.<sup>6</sup> Nasal decolonization interrupts the cycle of recontamination of the hands that can occur each time an individual touches their nose, allowing the hands to once again become a vector for disease transmission. The effects of these antiseptics can last up to 12 hours, providing ongoing protection for the users.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/staph-prevention-strategies.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1207290>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4947938/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://mbio.asm.org/content/11/4/e01806-20>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/nasal-decolonization-and-hai-prevention-applications-and-evidence>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/information-drug-class/topical-antiseptic-products-hand-sanitizers-and-antibacterial-soaps>

Your committees play a crucial role in protecting the public health and helping to promote best practices during the pandemic. Congress can help educate the public on the benefits of sanitizing the nose to help stem the spread of infections, making our communities safer.

Greater use by the American public of an affordable, over-the-counter and FDA-regulated sanitization product can help reduce the burden on our health care and front-line workers during the public health emergency (PHE).

Therefore, to help reduce the spread of new pathogenic infections and to preserve critical hospital capacity, **we strongly urge your committees to consider the inclusion of language promoting nasal sanitization supplies as an important infection prevention tool in any upcoming legislation to address the PHE.**

We, as subject matter experts and advisors to the Sanitize Your Nose campaign, sponsored by Global Life Technologies Corp., believe it is in the best health interest of the public to promote sanitizing the nose as a routine component of infection prevention strategies, such as hand washing and masks. Community-associated and secondary bacterial infections continue to pose a significant risk, and we are faced with the greatest strain our health care system has felt in a generation. It is imperative that Congress work with the CDC and other stakeholders to support sanitizing the nose as a recommended hygienic practice in complement to other critical strategies to improve health outcomes for Americans.

We appreciate your continued commitment to patients and providers during this unprecedented crisis. If you have any questions about nasal sanitization or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Lisowski, [Michael.lisowski@curastrategies.com](mailto:Michael.lisowski@curastrategies.com).

Regards,

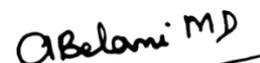
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Prevention Consultant



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OrthoCarolina



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Health

