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OPINION

# The need for primary care teams

Health systems with more primary care do better by the people they serve. Their patient populations are healthier, live longer, and have fewer disparities in outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and income.

By **Christopher Koller** Updated December 28, 2020, 11:49 a.m.



Jeremiah Young, 11, listens as Dr. Janice Bacon, a primary care physician at Central Mississippi Health Services, explains the necessity of receiving inoculations prior to attending school in August. ROGELIO V. SOLIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President-elect Joe Biden is pledging that his [first job as president](#) will be to stop the COVID-19 pandemic that is devastating, disrupting, and ending too many American lives. He has already [named](#) his coronavirus task force. His [action plan](#) includes an economic response for workers, families, and small businesses affected by the crisis, and a public health response that targets restoration of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention authority for policy-making, widespread availability of free testing, elimination of cost barriers for treatment, continued vaccine development, and coordination of supply chain and treatment resources.

This is a good list, but it's incomplete. To be successful, Biden's plan must also invest in the country's primary care delivery system. This will make our country healthier

now, in the midst of this pandemic, and in the future.

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