



## ***Beyond the Deliberation:*** **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***The COVID-19 Pandemic***

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of **“The COVID-19 Pandemic.”** Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

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### **Get Informed**

Understand COVID-19's impact on the broader healthcare system:

- [Read Covid-19: Implications for the Health Care System](#) from the New England Journal of Medicine that discusses how the pandemic is shifting the conversations around reforms for the present, and for future generations of Americans.
- Watch Families USA's [COVID-19 Video Series](#), where policy experts, doctors, and other health care professionals come together to discuss the impact of COVID on various populations and demographics, including its impact on both children and seniors.

Explore different perspectives on COVID's impact:

- Read "[Republicans, Democrats Move Even Further Apart in Coronavirus Concerns](#)," which details some of differences on coronavirus perspectives based on partisan politics.
- Read "[Tracking the COVID-19 Recession's Effects on Food, Housing, and Employment Hardships](#)," part of a special Covid Hardship Watch on the short and long-term implications of the pandemic.

Examine the policies:

- With the inauguration of President Biden, his administration looks to pass a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. Here's what people across the political spectrum say about the plan, and the broader implications for President Biden's agenda:
  - Read Politico's "[Republicans bludgeon Biden's big stimulus plans](#)"
  - Read The Wall Street Journal's "[Covid-19 Bill Negotiations Offer First Test of Biden's Bipartisanship Effort](#)"
  - Read Reason's "[President Biden's Unity Has a High Price Tag](#)"

### **Get Connected**

Connect with local organizations involved in health initiatives:

- [Healthy Charlotte Alliance](#) is a nonprofit that focuses on "improving the health and quality of life for all people of Mecklenburg County" through health education and volunteer programming.
- [Health Care for All NC](#), a chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, an organization that provides opportunities for members and the general public to learn and organize with the shared goal of NC and US universal health care.

### **Get Involved**

- Volunteer with NC nonprofit and public sector efforts by signing up [here](#) through NC.gov, or find more volunteering opportunities through [this](#) Charlotte Observer article.
- Advocate for conversations on mental health using guides such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness's "[COVID-19 Resource and Information Guide](#)".

## About This Guide

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### The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit [www.deliberativecitizenship.org](http://www.deliberativecitizenship.org).

### DCI Deliberation Guides

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

### DCI Pathways Guides

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email [dci@deliberativecitizenship.org](mailto:dci@deliberativecitizenship.org) to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit [www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources](http://www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources).