

Pandemic Preparedness Motion

This CLP notes that:

1. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis is in part due to supply chain disruptions and economic insecurity caused by COVID-19.
2. COVID-19 worsened the NHS waiting list crisis, causing a rise to a record high of seven million.
3. COVID-19 widened regional inequalities in Britain and disproportionately harmed the most vulnerable members of our society.
4. Many epidemics have emerged in recent decades, including HIV, SARS, avian flu, swine flu, MERS, Ebola, COVID-19 and mpox.
5. Experts expect the frequency of epidemics and pandemics to increase due to climate change, and pandemics remain at the top of the National Risk Register.
6. Future pandemics may be even more severe than COVID-19, which threatens our NHS and risks widening inequalities in Britain.

This CLP therefore resolves to:

1. Call on the Labour Party to commit to increasing investment in research and development aimed at making our communities more secure against pandemics.
2. Call on the next Labour government to boost cooperation with other nations via the World Health Organisation to ensure new infectious diseases are contained before they progress to pandemics.