

R&D for Security from Future Pandemics - Scientists for Labour and Labour for the Long Term

This Branch / 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 has worsened the NHS waiting list crisis, causing a rise to a record high of seven million.
3. COVID-19 has 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 monkeypox.
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 Branch / CLP therefore resolves to:

1. Call on the Labour Party at the national level to commit to greater investment in research and development aimed at making our communities more secure against pandemics.
2. Call upon our MP to work with the scientific community to advocate for policies which improve our security against pandemics.