



# Reach the Beach 2020

Washington: Sept. 26 | Oregon: Oct. 11

**#COVIDRIDE**

## Why Giving Now Is More Important Than Ever

Anyone who breathes is at risk of contracting COVID-19—a virus that attacks the respiratory system. People are more aware of the importance of lung health than ever, because **When You Can't Breathe, Nothing Else Matters®**.

More than 36 million people in the U.S. suffering from lung disease are at high risk for experiencing complications from this disease. This makes the American Lung Association's mission more relevant today than ever before.

The American Lung Association is uniquely positioned to address the needs we are facing today to defeat COVID-19 and responsibly plan for future respiratory virus pandemics. As you know, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness. The Lung Association has a well-known track record of successfully guiding the nation through many public health crises that targeted the lungs.

The American Lung Association was originally founded in 1904 to address the tuberculosis epidemic, a leading cause of death in the US at the turn of the 20th century. Back then, we played a critical role in developing and funding increasingly effective approaches to prevent, detect and treat the disease. Today, tuberculosis is largely controlled in the United States.

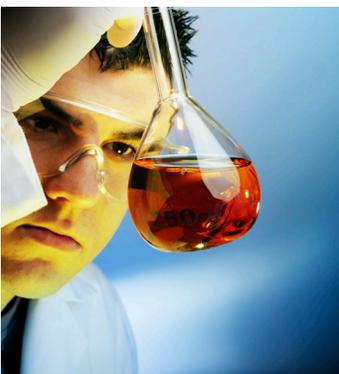
Since then, the American Lung Association has successfully addressed other respiratory outbreaks, including the 1918 Flu Pandemic, H1N1, MERS and SARS. The Lung Association's proven model of education, advocacy and research makes us uniquely positioned to address the needs we are facing today.

### COVID-19 Action Initiative Already Underway

The American Lung Association launched a \$25M initiative to end COVID-19 and defend against future respiratory virus pandemics, which Clean Air Challenge 2020 #covidride is supporting. Your donation dollars are already at work to fight COVID-19.

- **New COVID-19 and Emerging Respiratory Viruses Award**

The American Lung Association announced a new research award to address the COVID-19 pandemic—\$100,000 per year for up to two years. This award is intended to support investigators with a stellar track record of accomplishment who have the potential to advance our knowledge of COVID-19 and other novel respiratory viruses with pandemic potential. Applications are due May 30, 2021 and we will award beginning July 1, 2021.



## COVID-19 Action Initiative Already Underway *(continued)*

- **COVID-19 Citizen Science Study**

In a collaborative effort to better address and track the COVID-19 pandemic, we have partnered with Northwestern University and the University of California, San Francisco to engage adults in real-time data collection as part of the new COVID-19 Citizen Science study. Our collective data could help researchers gain insight into how the virus is spreading in hopes of reducing future infections.

- **LEEP study add COVID-19 Analysis**

The world is undergoing the COVID-19 pandemic with a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV2). Among those most likely to die are older patients with chronic diseases including cardiac disease, hypertension, and diabetes. It has been hypothesized that this increased susceptibility is due to the common treatment of these disorders with Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARBs) and Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEi). This presents an important opportunity for the currently implemented LEEP trial (Losartan Effects on Emphysema Progression). The Airways Clinical Research Centers (ACRC) will investigate how the use of ARBs may impact those who contract COVID-19 as well as determine the prevalence and severity of COVID-19 in this population.

## Advocacy for COVID-19 Health Provisions

The American Lung Association has continued to advocate for policies that will help our community cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, advocacy staff have continued to meet with members of Congress and work with partners to address health disparities associated with the pandemic. The American Lung Association is working with our partners to ask Congress and the Administration for additional demographic data on COVID-19 patients, in light of the fact that minority populations are experiencing higher rates of COVID-19.

## COVID-19 Health Promotion

If you visit [Lung.org/COVID-19](https://www.lung.org/COVID-19) you'll find a hub of resources available. From blogs written by healthcare providers who support patients, videos of patients with lung disease encouraging others to stay home, FAQs about COVID-19, recorded and future webinars and so much more.

## Donations Fund The Work We Do.

*Your tax-deductible donation funds lung disease medical research, lung health education and advocacy for clean air and healthy lungs. The American Lung Association is a charity built on trust and transparency, and is a proud holder of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Guide Seal, a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, a Gold Star rating from GuideStar and membership in the National Health Council.*

**Thank You**  
**ReachTheBeach.org**

