

For 6 percent of COVID victims, long COVID might be here for an indefinite stay

Covid-19 is now [endemic](#), meaning the [coronavirus](#) is here to stay and health officials must pivot from treating it like a one-time emergency to managing the disease in perpetuity. The same must be true of long covid.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about [6 percent](#) of American adults have lingering symptoms from coronavirus infection. But despite the condition's prevalence, much about long covid remains a mystery. Most distressing is the fact that there is no cure for it.

This needs to change. Key to living with the virus is reckoning with its consequences, which includes having a plan to treat those afflicted with post-covid conditions.

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) has been leading the [push for funding](#) to accelerate long-covid research. His advocacy is personal: He contracted the virus in March 2020, and though his symptoms were mild and quickly subsided, one never went away.

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Thus far, more than [\\$1 billion](#) has gone to fund long-covid research through the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies. Kaine is spearheading efforts to secure additional resources, including through [bipartisan legislation](#) introduced with another senator with long covid, Todd C. Young (R-Ind.).

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