

The Coronavirus: A View From 30,000 Feet

Opening presentation by Rear Admiral Kenneth Bernard (USPHS, Ret.)

Rear Admiral Kenneth Bernard (USPHS, Ret.) served at the White House from 2002-2005 as Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and as Assistant Surgeon General. In that position he was the senior official in the US government in charge of biodefense policy. He currently works as a consultant and advisor to a number of U.S. Government agencies and private sector institutions on issues of biodefense, intelligence, health security, and health diplomacy. He teaches a course on biosecurity at Stanford. From 1998-2001 he was Senior Adviser for Security and Health on the National Security Council Staff. From 2001-2003 he was head of the U.S. Delegation negotiating the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. His other positions have included Senior Advisor to Senator Bill Frist, Special Advisor for National Security, Intelligence and Defense to Tommy Thompson, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Senior Political Adviser to the Director-General of the World Health Organization, International Health Attaché at the U.S. Mission to the UN in Geneva, Associate Director for Medical and Scientific Affairs in the Office of International Health, Department of Health and Human Services, and International Health Policy Adviser to the Director of the U.S. Peace Corps. He began his career as an epidemiologist and disease detective at the Centers for Disease Control. Dr. Bernard is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity.