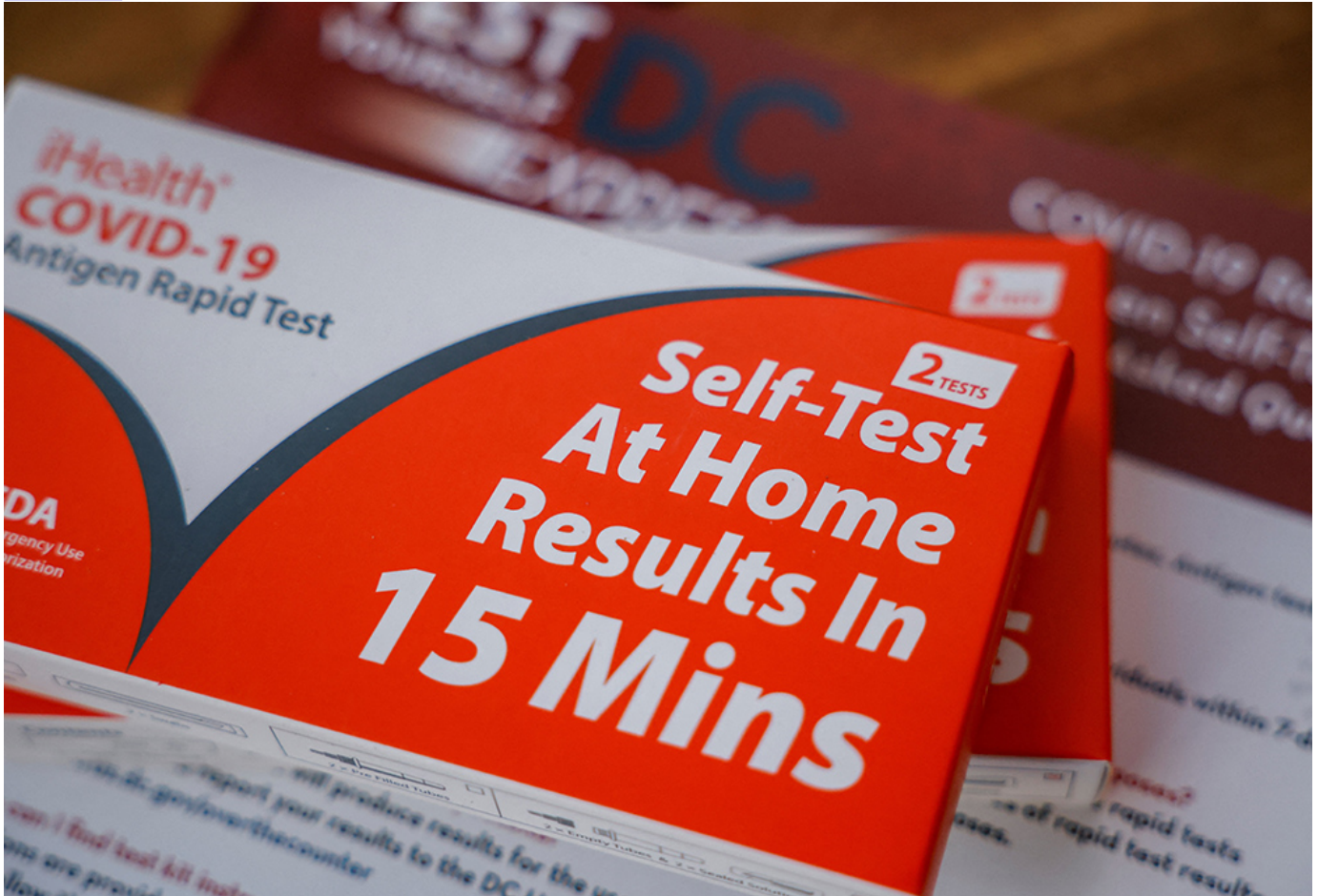


[Opinion](#)



Free home COVID-19 self-testing kits provided by the District of Columbia government are seen in this illustration photo Jan. 11, 2022. (CNS/Reuters/Evelyn Hockstein)



Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

hschlumpf@ncronline.org

Follow on Twitter at [@heidischlumpf](https://twitter.com/heidischlumpf)



Daniel P. Horan

[View Author Profile](#)



David Dault

[View Author Profile](#)

[**Join the Conversation**](#)

March 31, 2023

[Share on Bluesky](#)[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Email to a friend](#)[Print](#)

NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf is part of the new season of "The Francis Effect" podcast, joining co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Daniel Horan ([columnist for NCR](#)) and [David Dault](#), executive producer and host of "Things Not Seen: Conversations About Culture and Faith."

Heidi, Father Daniel and David discuss the Biden administration's plan to shut down its COVID-19 response team in May, and the administration's intent to declare an end to the country's state of public health emergency. They also talk about U.S. bishops' recent guidance document regarding transgender individuals and gender-affirming medical treatments; and they discuss the upcoming Holy Week.

How do I listen?

Click the "play" button at the top of the page to start the show. Make sure to keep the window open on your browser if you're doing other things, or the audio will stop.

From your mobile device:

You can listen and subscribe to "The Francis Effect" from any podcast app. If you're reading this from an iPhone or other Apple mobile device, tap [this link](#) to listen in Apple Podcasts. If you're on an Android, tap [this link](#) to listen in Google Podcasts.

If you prefer another podcast app, you can find "The Francis Effect" there. (Here's the [RSS feed](#).)

From a desktop or laptop:

You can visit [The Francis Effect website here](#) for more information on the show.

You can also find the podcast on Twitter: [@FrancisFXPod](#).

Advertisement

[Related:](#) [Critics say US bishops' new statement on transgender health care lacks sound science and trans voices](#)

[Related:](#) [US bishops' document against transgender health care is a disaster](#)

This story appears in the **The Francis Effect Podcast** feature series. [View the full series](#).