

Herron, Robin

From: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) <IGA@messages.dhs.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Whitaker, Skylar
Subject: FEMA Advisory: COVID-19 Best Practices

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Please see the advisory below from our partners in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding an update on the Whole-of-America response to COVID-19.

April 19, 2020

FEMA Advisory

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Best Practices

FEMA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are collecting and sharing best practices and lessons learned from the whole-of-America response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The best practices are intended to help medical practitioners, emergency managers, and other critical stakeholders learn from each other's approaches and apply solutions to current response and recovery operations.

The [FEMA Coronavirus Emergency Management Best Practices](#) page provides a one-stop shop to explore best practices and lessons learned across all levels of government, private sector, academic institutions, professional associations, and other organizations. HHS has a comprehensive [Novel Coronavirus Resources](#) page that highlights technical resources and information for the medical community and emergency responders.

Best practices are organized around five themes:

- *Helping People*, which includes best practices on topics such as crisis counseling resources and anticipating and attending to civil rights;
- *Government Operations* best practices such as public information and continuity of operations considerations;
- *Private Sector and Infrastructure*, which includes best practices for commercial trucking and food stores;
- *Recovery Planning and Implementation*, to include the newly released FEMA Disaster Financial Management Guide and economic recovery considerations; and
- *Medical Supplies and Equipment*, including best practices for the preservation of personal protective equipment while ensuring workers are protected.

Please visit www.coronavirus.gov for current health-related guidance and information on COVID-19.

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Also, follow Administrator Pete Gaynor on Twitter [@FEMA Pete](#).

FEMA Mission

To help people before, during, and after disasters.

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Subject: INVITE & RESOURCES: April 21 at 1:30 p.m. ET State-Federal Technical Assistance on COVID-19 Testing & 45-Minute Testing Webinar
Attachments: COVID-19 Testing Slides - 04-17-2020.pdf

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Governors are leading their entire testing ecosystem in their State, including scaling and utilizing all testing capacity, improving transparency on all testing options, managing the workflow to maximize all testing capacity through high-throughput platforms, bolstering contact tracing, and ensuring supply chain management of critical resources and healthcare capacity.

Key Resource to Expanding Testing Resources

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- **Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020
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45 Minute COVID-19 Testing Webinar

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We know every State has unique testing needs and capacity. We want to work with you to provide the necessary technical assistance and support. Please let me know if you require technical support from FEMA, HHS, CDC, FDA, and or other Federal agencies to support your State-managed efforts.

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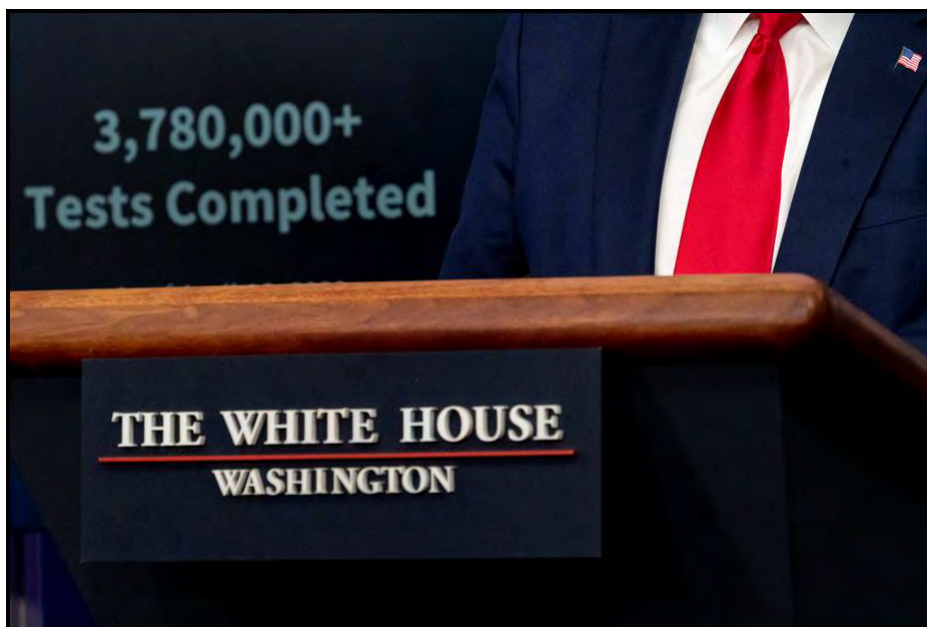
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(Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

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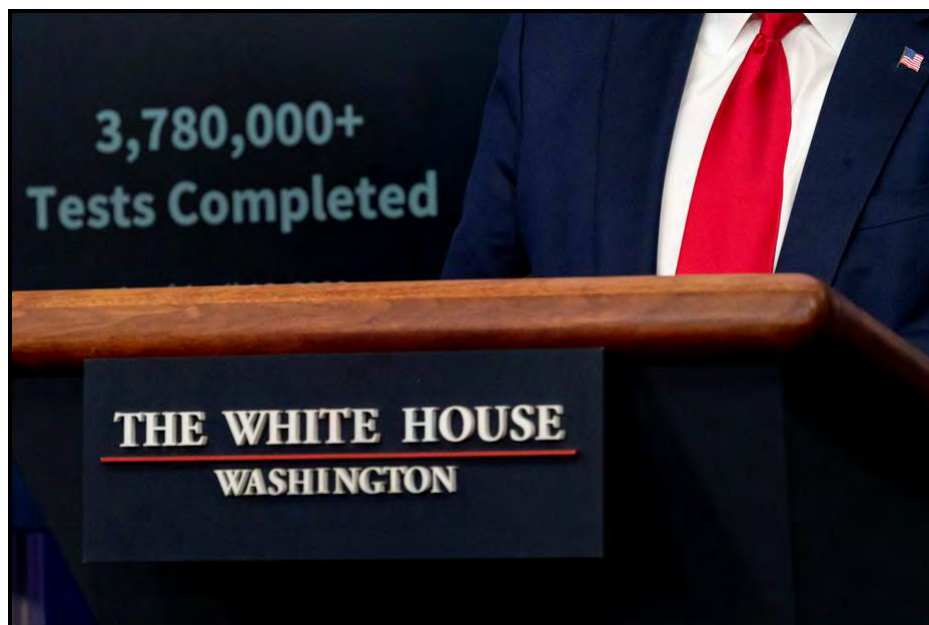
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- **Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (MI)** [announced](#) 13 new or expanded COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites in partnership with Michigan Primary Care Association, 11 health centers, and NxGen MDX Laboratory. Additionally, Michigan is partnering with Walmart to expand drive-thru testing sites. Walmart has announce additional partnerships in 10 total states.
- **Gov. Doug Burgum (ND)** [announced](#) pilot project to expand COVID-19 testing and improve tracing to slow spread of virus.
- **Gov. Pete Ricketts (NE)** [worked](#) with the Nebraska State Health Lab in maximizing reagent by pooling multiple people's COVID-19 samples together, saving resources and time.
- **Gov. Andrew Cuomo (NY)** [signed](#) an executive order to expand antibody testing that will expand the number of people who are eligible to conduct the coronavirus antibody test.
- **Governor Mike DeWine (OH)** [worked](#) with the Ohio State University Wexler Medical Center to expand and accelerate testing creating a sterile solution to transport testing swaps (called viral transport media) that stabilizes the virus, and has worked with university engineering and dentistry departments to 3D print more than 50,000 swabs for tests.
- **Gov. Greg Abbott (TX)** [announced](#) Walgreens drive-thru testing site sites in Texas. Walgreens is operating additional sites in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Tennessee.
- **Gov. Bill (TN)** [expanded](#) testing options by establishing 15 drive-through testing sites across the State available to anyone. In addition to drive-through testing sites, Tennesseans can get a test free of charge, five days a week at every rural county health department in the state.
- **Gov. Gina Raimondo (RI), Gov. Charlie Baker (MA), Gov. Brian Kemp (GA)** have all [announced](#) a rapid COVID-19 tests partnership with CVS Health.
- **Governor Jim Justice (WV)** [ordered](#) all nursing home residents and staff statewide to be tested for COVID-19.

FEMA COVID-19 Emergency Management Best Practices

FEMA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are collecting and sharing best practices and lessons learned from the whole-of-America response to COVID-19. The best practices are intended to help medical practitioners, emergency managers, and other critical stakeholders learn from each other's approaches and apply solutions to current response and recovery operations.

The [FEMA Coronavirus Emergency Management Best Practices](#) page provides a one-stop shop to explore best practices and lessons learned across all levels of government, private sector, academic institutions, professional associations, and other organizations. HHS has a comprehensive [Novel Coronavirus Resources](#) page that highlights technical resources and information for the medical community and emergency responders. Best practices are organized around five themes:

- *Helping People*, which includes best practices on topics such as crisis counseling resources and anticipating and attending to civil rights;
- *Government Operations* best practices such as public information and continuity of operations considerations;
- *Private Sector and Infrastructure*, which includes best practices for commercial trucking and food stores;
- *Recovery Planning and Implementation*, to include the newly released FEMA Disaster Financial Management Guide and economic recovery considerations; and
- *Medical Supplies and Equipment*, including best practices for the preservation of personal protective equipment while ensuring workers are protected.

Herron, Robin

From: Jeffrey Dickerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 6:22 PM
To: Carden, Thomas M Jr MG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA)
Cc: Berry, Frank;Haldopoulos, Emmanuel I (Manny) Brig Gen USAF GA CRTC (USA);Hood, Joseph;Lairt, Julio R Col USAF 116 ACW (USA);Loke, Ryan;Lucas Rice;mark.sexton;Marshall, Kris J COL USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Noggle, Caylee;Tim Dignam;Wilson, Richard D BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Simmons, Randall V Jr BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);lrice@ldxsolutions.com;Darryl Graham;Matthew Hicks;Jeffrey Dickerson
Subject: Interagency COVID-19 Response Planning Team Update, 191800APR20

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Vr,
Jeff

Jeff Dickerson
GA DOD Interagency Coordinator for COVID-19 Response
Email: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

From: Jeffrey Dickerson [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Carden, Thomas M Jr MG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA) <thomas.m.carden.mil@mail.mil>
Cc: Berry, Frank <frank.berry@dch.ga.gov>; Haldopoulos, Emmanuel I (Manny) Brig Gen USAF GA CRTC (USA) <emmanuel.haldopoulos.mil@mail.mil>; Joseph Hood <joseph.hood@dch.ga.gov>; Lairt, Julio R Col USAF 116 ACW (USA) <julio.r.lairt.mil@mail.mil>; Loke, Ryan <ryan.loke@georgia.gov>; Lucas Rice <lrice@ldxsolutions.com>; Mark

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Subject: Interagency COVID-19 Response Planning Team Update, 190900APR20

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GA DOD Interagency Coordinator for COVID-19 Response
Email: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

From: Jeffrey Dickerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 6:22 PM
To: Carden, Thomas M Jr MG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA) <thomas.m.carden.mil@mail.mil>
Cc: Berry, Frank <frank.berry@dch.ga.gov>; Haldopoulos, Emmanuel I (Manny) Brig Gen USAF GA CRTG (USA) <emmanuel.haldopoulos.mil@mail.mil>; Joseph Hood <joseph.hood@dch.ga.gov>; Lairet, Julio R Col USAF 116 ACW (USA) <julio.r.lairet.mil@mail.mil>; Loke, Ryan <ryan.loke@georgia.gov>; Lucas Rice <lrice@ldxsolutions.com>; Mark Sexton <mark.sexton@gema.ga.gov>; Marshall, Kris J COL USARMY NG GAARNG (USA) <kris.j.marshall2.mil@mail.mil>; Noggle, Caylee <caylee.noggle@georgia.gov>; Tim Dignam <tdignam@cdc.gov>; Wilson, Richard D BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA) <richard.d.wilson.mil@mail.mil>; Simmons, Randall V Jr BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA) (randall.v.simmons.mil@mail.mil) <randall.v.simmons.mil@mail.mil>; 'lrice@ldxsolutions.com' <lrice@ldxsolutions.com>; Darryl Graham <dgraham@gwcc.com>; Matthew Hicks <mhicks@gmh.edu>; Jeffrey Dickerson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Interagency COVID-19 Response Planning Team Update, 181830APR20

Jeff Dickerson
GA DOD Interagency Coordinator for COVID-19 Response
Email: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

Herron, Robin

From: Jeffrey Dickerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 6:22 PM
To: Carden, Thomas M Jr MG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA)
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Subject: Interagency COVID-19 Response Planning Team Update, 181830APR20

Jeff Dickerson
GA DOD Interagency Coordinator for COVID-19 Response
Email: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

Herron, Robin

From: Latcham, Alexander S. EOP/WHO <Alexander.S.Latcham@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 9:41 PM
To: Latcham, Alexander S. EOP/WHO
Subject: 04/19 COVID-19 Update

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

This weekend, President Donald Trump made individual calls to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, President Andrzej Duda of Poland, President Moon Jae-in of South Korea, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of Mexico, and King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain. President Trump reaffirmed his commitment to work with these nations and others to battle the COVID-19 epidemic.

On Friday, President Trump and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue [announced the creation of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\)](#). This \$19 billion immediate relief program will provide critical support to farmers and ranchers, maintain the integrity of our food supply chain, and ensure every American continues to receive and have access to the food they need.

This evening, the Treasury Department and Customs and Border Protection [issued a joint Temporary Interim Final Rule](#) providing importers, who have faced a significant financial hardship due to the outbreak, with the option for a 90-day deferment period on the payment of duties, taxes, and fees.

Tomorrow, members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press briefing at 5:00pm ET.

Additional Guidance (as of 4.19, 6:00pm):

- **WH** - President Donald J. Trump Announces Guidelines for Opening Up America Again ([Click here](#))
- **WH** - President Donald J. Trump Is Beginning the Next Phase In Our Fight Against Coronavirus: Guidelines for Opening Up America Again ([Click here](#))
- **HHS** - Secretary Azar Statement on New Partnership to Develop National Strategy for COVID-19 Therapies and Vaccines ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Serology Testing for COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - FDA Continues User-Fee Related Reviews Through COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - April 16 Daily Roundup ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - FDA, Gates Foundation, UnitedHealth Group, Quantigen, and U.S. Cotton Collaborate to Address Testing Supply Needs ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - Shopping for Food During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Information for Consumers ([Click here](#))
- **NIH** - NIH to launch public-private partnership to speed COVID-19 vaccine and treatment options ([Click here](#))
- **Treasury/SBA** - Statement from Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin and Administrator Jovita Carranza on the Success of the Paycheck Protection Program ([Click here](#))
- **Treasury/VA** - VA Partners with Treasury Department to Deliver Economic Impact Payments to Veterans and Survivors ([Click here](#))
- **SBA** - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Report ([Click here](#))
- **FCC** - COVID-19 Telehealth Program ([Click here](#))
- **USDA** - DC and North Carolina Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program ([Click here](#))
- **USDA** - USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in North Carolina and Massachusetts ([Click here](#))

- **DHS-FEMA** - FEMA Provides \$4 Million for Convention Center Lease ([Click here](#))
- **DHS-FEMA** - Strategic and Operational Planning ([Click here](#))
- **DHS-CISA** - Identifying Critical Infrastructure During COVID-19 Version 3.0 ([Click here](#))
- **DOL** - U.S. Department of Labor Considers Employer's Good Faith Efforts When Enforcing Compliance During Coronavirus Pandemic ([Click here](#))
- **EPA** - EPA Announces Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Governments ([Click here](#))
- **EPA** - EPA Region 7 Transfers Personal Protective Equipment to FEMA ([Click here](#))
- **EPA** - EPA's Mountains and Plains Region transfers N-95 masks to Federal Emergency Management Agency ([Click here](#))
- **DOJ** - Justice Department Seeks to End Illegal Online Sale of Industrial Bleach Marketed as "Miracle" Treatment for COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **DOD** - DLA Disposition Services Makes Excess Military Items Available for COVID-19 Response ([Click here](#))
- **DOD** - Corps of Engineers Takes On 28 COVID-19 Bed Facilities ([Click here](#))

Alex Latham
Special Assistant to the President
White House Office of Political Affairs

HIGHLIGHTS | President Trump and the Coronavirus Task Force Update Americans on Response Efforts

TESTING

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "America continues to make steady progress in our war against the virus. As of today, we have tested 4.18 million Americans, that's a record anywhere in the world."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "The United States has now conducted more total tests than all of the following nations combined: France, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, India, Austria, Australia, Sweden, and Canada. And our testing is expanding very rapidly by millions and millions of people."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "[Tomorrow], the President and Vice President will lead a call with our nation's governors from FEMA headquarters with the nation's governors to review what more they can do and do together to develop locally tailored testing strategies, working very hard with governors now on testing."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "Many governors are still relying on their state laboratories rather than the full and much larger capacity that is available to them - as an example, commercial laboratories like Quest and LabCorp."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "You must remember, that the governors wanted to have total control over the opening of their states, but now they want to have us, the federal government, do the testing. And again, testing is, is local. You can't have it both ways. Testing is a local thing."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "A month ago, we had done 80,000 coronavirus tests in America. This weekend we cleared more than 4 million and we're currently testing more than one million

Americans a week. We fully expect to actually have tested more than 5 million before the end of this month."

SUPPLIES OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We're close to finalizing the second partnership through which a U.S. manufacturer would convert its existing plant to produce over 10 million additional swabs per month and we should be ready to announce this in a very short period of time."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We also are going to be using and we're preparing to use the Defense Production Act to increase swab production in one U.S. facility by over 20 million additional swabs per month."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We're working with the world-class team at Oak Ridge National laboratory to use its injection molding capacity to potentially produce over 10 million collection tubes per week."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "My Administration continues to execute our massive military operations to supply our hospitals with equipment they need, and beds if necessary but it looks like we're totally covered on beds. We have plenty of beds."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "The federal government is currently procuring more than 100,000 ventilators through new production or purchases, with thousands already delivered."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "I want to thank the Dynamic Ventilator Reserve because what they've done is incredible, that's a capital D.V.R., by the way, an innovative public-private partnership ... We're gaining access to up to 65,000 additional ventilators in hospitals across the nation that can be redeployed very quickly to areas with the greatest need when they're not in use, and we right now have almost 10,000 in our reserve."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "Through the Project Airbridge, we've completed 64 flights carrying over 600 million pieces of personal protective equipment, such as gloves, gowns, and other medical gear, with 50 more flights scheduled in the very near future."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "FEMA is working to commit another \$384 million to produce another 64 million gowns ... I want to thank America's textile manufacturers for their partnership in this remarkable undertaking. Two U.S. companies, Hanes and Standard Textile, are on track to produce 5 million gowns by the end of the month."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "Honeywell is hiring more than 1,000 American workers to produce 20 million masks per month -- 20 million masks a month. Thanks to the Defense Production Act, we'll be receiving another 40 million masks over the next few weeks. ... This production is, in addition to the 55 million N95 masks my administration has already distributed. Plus we ordered -- and it's coming in soon -- 500 million masks."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We have secured nearly four times as many N95 masks in recent weeks as we would in the entire healthcare industry during a typical year."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "This pandemic has underscored the vital importance of reshoring our supply chains and bringing them back into the United States, where they belong -- where they should have never left."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "5,528 military personnel have been deployed across 24 hospitals and facilities and 28,700 National Guard are on duty."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "At the present moment, we have more than 9,055 ventilators on hand. We actually added 91 ventilators to that supply because of the production that the President and our task force at FEMA has activated. In the next seven days, we'll be adding 576 ventilators to the strategic national stockpile."

RESUMING ELECTIVE SURGERIES

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "CMS is finalizing new guidelines for doctors and patients to resume elective surgeries."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "As long as the rate of infections remains low in a community, we want patients to be able to go to their doctors, get clinically tested, and have worked on, surgeries."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "If your doctor believes you need a treatment in person, you can get a treatment now. You can and should get a treatment now. We are asking that healthcare facilities have plans in place to keep patients safe during their visit."

CMS ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: "We are issuing guidelines today about how we can reopen the healthcare system. So, these are recommendations around phase one. ... Healthcare officials across the country, and healthcare systems, need to decide what services should be made available. And ultimately, doctors and patients need to make decisions about their healthcare services. We want to make sure that systems are reopening so they can stay open and doing that in a very measured way."

PRECAUTIONS IN NURSING HOMES

CMS ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: "Today, we are announcing that we are requiring nursing homes to report to patients and their families if there are cases of COVID virus inside the nursing home. We are also requiring nursing homes to report directly to the CDC when they have cases of COVID virus."

CMS ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: "FEMA's also working on a plan to make sure that nursing homes have the supplies that they need."

CMS ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: "Just last week, we increased the reimbursement in the Medicare program for high-throughput tests and we are also paying for labs to go to out to nursing homes to collect samples. And that's going to really support efforts on nursing homes in order to isolate patients."

NEW TREATMENTS AND THERAPEUTICS

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We've launched an unprecedented effort to develop new treatments and therapies to battle the plague."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We have some things that are looking good. Really looking good. We call [it] COVID Treatment Acceleration Program. We're accelerating all of these great companies that are looking and we have government agencies looking too, NIH. This extraordinary program is slashing red tape to speed and development and to – rival – and, and if you look, if you look at what we are doing in terms of the speed, it is unrivaled."

###

Herron, Robin

From: Jeffrey Dickerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Carden, Thomas M Jr MG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA)
Cc: Berry, Frank;Haldopoulos, Emmanuel I (Manny) Brig Gen USAF GA CRTC (USA);Hood, Joseph;Laird, Julio R Col USAF 116 ACW (USA);Loke, Ryan;Lucas Rice;mark.sexton;Marshall, Kris J COL USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Noggle, Caylee;Tim Dignam;Wilson, Richard D BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Simmons, Randall V Jr BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);lrice@ldxsolutions.com;Darryl Graham;Matthew Hicks;Jeffrey Dickerson
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Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP <Anne.T.Obenshain@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:49 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Fleming, Tim; Herron, Robin; 'ben@potomacsouthllc.com'
Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: Update from Vice President Mike Pence: Project Airbridge State & County-Level Data - Georgia
Attachments: GA - Recent PPE Shipments - 200419.pdf

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Good Morning, please see an updated PPE distribution document attached for reference during the 11am all-governors VTC with Vice President Pence. As stated below, these supplies have been distributed as a result of Project Airbridge and additional commercial supply chain acquisitions.

Best,

Tucker Obenshain
Office of the Vice President
(202) 881-6217 (no text)

From: Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 11:47 AM
To: [REDACTED] 'tim.fleming@georgia.gov' <tim.fleming@georgia.gov>; 'robin.herron@georgia.gov' <robin.herron@georgia.gov>; 'ben@potomacsouthllc.com' <ben@potomacsouthllc.com>
Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Subject: Update from Vice President Mike Pence: Project Airbridge State & County-Level Data - Georgia



Office of the Vice President

Governor and Senior Staff,

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Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
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Attachments: GA - Recent PPE Shipments - 200419.pdf

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Herron, Robin

From: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) <IGA@messages.dhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Whitaker, Skylar
Subject: Acting Secretary Chad Wolf Statement on the President's Executive Order on Duties and Fees Deferment for Certain Importers

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Office of Public Affairs

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Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:02 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Fleming, Tim; Herron, Robin; 'ben@potomacsouthllc.com'; Herron, Robin; Toomey, Kathleen; Bryson, Homer
Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO; Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP; Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO
Subject: Read Ahead - April 20, 2020 Governors' Briefing with the Vice President on COVID-19 -- GA
Attachments: Testing Update Slide Deck - 04-20-2020.pdf; Georgia High & Low Throughput Machine Locations.pdf; Georgia Laboratory Report.xlsx

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This Information is Being Provided on Behalf of the White House Coronavirus Task Force



Governor and Senior Staff,

As a read ahead for today's briefing with the Vice President, below and attached is State-by-State testing platform information. This information will allow each governor and state officials to scale and utilize all testing capacity, improve transparency on all testing options, and manage the workflow to maximize all testing capacity through high-throughput platforms.

- State-by-State Testing Platform Information (see below)
- State-Specific High & Low Throughput Machine Location Map (see attached PDF)
- State-Specific High & Low Throughput Machine Location Details (see attached Excel File)
- Testing Approach Update Slide Deck (see attachment)

Separately, you are receiving this morning updated Project Airbridge State & County-Level Data from the Office of the Vice President (Tucker Obenshain; Anne.T.Obenshain@ovp.eop.gov).

State-by-State Testing Platform Information

Over the past four weeks the White House Coronavirus Task Force (WHCTF) has worked with diagnostic manufacturers and commercial laboratories to continuously expand COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) diagnostic tests for existing nucleic acid testing platforms. Eight different platforms now have COVID-19 tests available and many of your labs in your state now have these tests available. An additional platform will move forward within 7-10 days. Under the direction of the WHCTF, a coordinated interagency team of senior scientific and public health personnel has performed an in-depth review of laboratory diagnostic capacity based on the State's testing platforms that can perform COVID-19 tests across the United States. **Much of the capacity is outside of the State's Public Health Laboratory.** This analysis has resulted in a State-by-State inventory of diagnostic testing platforms, each platform's maximum throughput capacity, and each instrument's geo-location, as provided by its manufacturer. We are providing you with the information we have developed for your State. **Please keep in mind this is proprietary information to the companies who have**

provided it and, while we are sharing it with the companies' permission, the companies have asked that states keep this information confidential.

At the same time we have been in touch with many of your laboratory directors and the American Society of Microbiologists (ASM) to document and understand the barriers for full utilization. We are working together to address the issues that have been raised from technical support, to insufficient laboratory personnel, to insufficient funding, to swabs, transport media, tubes, extraction reagents and test kits. Each lab has unique requirements and we have a team talking with each laboratory to understand together how to increase our partnership and together address the often specific and unique issue as well as some overarching issues.

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Nic Pottebaum	202-881-7803	Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov
Zach Swint	202-881-6717	Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov
Ella Campana	202-881-7298	Ariella.M.Campana@who.eop.gov

Office of the Vice President Contact Information

Name	Cell Phone	Email
Tucker Obenshain	202-881-6217	Anne.T.Obenshain@ovp.eop.gov

[Slow the Spread](#)

Ella Campana

Deputy Associate Director

White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Cell: 202.881.7298 | E: Ariella.M.Campana@who.eop.gov

Herron, Robin

From: Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO <Ariella.M.Campana@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:02 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Fleming, Tim; Herron, Robin; 'ben@potomacsouthllc.com'; Herron, Robin; Toomey, Kathleen; Bryson, Homer
Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO; Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP; Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO
Subject: Read Ahead - April 20, 2020 Governors' Briefing with the Vice President on COVID-19 -- GA
Attachments: Testing Update Slide Deck - 04-20-2020.pdf; Georgia High & Low Throughput Machine Locations.pdf; Georgia Laboratory Report.xlsx

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This Information is Being Provided on Behalf of the White House Coronavirus Task Force



Governor and Senior Staff,

As a read ahead for today's briefing with the Vice President, below and attached is State-by-State testing platform information. This information will allow each governor and state officials to scale and utilize all testing capacity, improve transparency on all testing options, and manage the workflow to maximize all testing capacity through high-throughput platforms.

- State-by-State Testing Platform Information (see below)
- State-Specific High & Low Throughput Machine Location Map (see attached PDF)
- State-Specific High & Low Throughput Machine Location Details (see attached Excel File)
- Testing Approach Update Slide Deck (see attachment)

Separately, you are receiving this morning updated Project Airbridge State & County-Level Data from the Office of the Vice President (Tucker Obenshain; Anne.T.Obenshain@ovp.eop.gov).

State-by-State Testing Platform Information

Over the past four weeks the White House Coronavirus Task Force (WHCTF) has worked with diagnostic manufacturers and commercial laboratories to continuously expand COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) diagnostic tests for existing nucleic acid testing platforms. Eight different platforms now have COVID-19 tests available and many of your labs in your state now have these tests available. An additional platform will move forward within 7-10 days. Under the direction of the WHCTF, a coordinated interagency team of senior scientific and public health personnel has performed an in-depth review of laboratory diagnostic capacity based on the State's testing platforms that can perform COVID-19 tests across the United States. **Much of the capacity is outside of the State's Public Health Laboratory.** This analysis has resulted in a State-by-State inventory of diagnostic testing platforms, each platform's maximum throughput capacity, and each instrument's geo-location, as provided by its manufacturer. We are providing you with the information we have developed for your State. **Please keep in mind this is proprietary information to the companies who have**

provided it and, while we are sharing it with the companies' permission, the companies have asked that states keep this information confidential.

At the same time we have been in touch with many of your laboratory directors and the American Society of Microbiologists (ASM) to document and understand the barriers for full utilization. We are working together to address the issues that have been raised from technical support, to insufficient laboratory personnel, to insufficient funding, to swabs, transport media, tubes, extraction reagents and test kits. Each lab has unique requirements and we have a team talking with each laboratory to understand together how to increase our partnership and together address the often specific and unique issue as well as some overarching issues.

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Ella Campana

Deputy Associate Director

White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Cell: 202.881.7298 | E: Ariella.M.Campana@who.eop.gov

Herron, Robin

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Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO; Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP; Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO
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Ella Campana

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Herron, Robin

From: Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO <Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO
Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO; Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO; Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP
Subject: RE: INVITE: Governor-Only Briefing Call/VTC with the Vice President on Monday April 20 at 11:00 a.m. ET
Attachments: US and Italy Comparison .pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

All,

Please see the attached slide on a comparison of the U.S. and Italy.

Regards,

Zach Swint
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
The White House
C: (202) 881-6717 | E: Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov

From: Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO <Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>; Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO <Ariella.M.Campana@who.eop.gov>; Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP <Anne.T.Obenshain@ovp.eop.gov>
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Governor's Senior Staff (Chief of Staff, State-Federal Director, and Scheduler),

Our Nation's Governors are invited to a **Governors-only Briefing Call (with a video teleconference option)** with Vice President Mike Pence and Senior Administration Officials on **Monday, April 20, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time** for an update on the Federal-State-Local efforts to respond to COVID-19.

Briefing Call/VTC Details

- **Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020
- **Time:** 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time

- **Expected Length:** 60-90 minutes
 - *Please communicate if your governor is expected to be late or depart early from the call.*
- **Federal Participants:** President Trump & Senior Administration Officials
- **Reminder Governors-Only (i.e., one call-in per state):** Participation in this call is for governors only, but we encourage governors to be joined by their respective state health officer, homeland security advisor, emergency manager, state economic development directors, state workforce directors, other key state leaders in the state's response and re-opening efforts to COVID-19. Interactions will be limited only to governors and Federal leaders.
- **Video Teleconference Option:** If possible, *we encourage your governor to participate by VTC*. Participation by VTC allows governors and federal speakers to interact more efficiently. Any governor who wants to participate in this briefing via video teleconference (VTC), **indicate so in the RSVP**. FEMA has worked with your emergency manager to identify VTC capabilities in your state and we can provide you that information.

NOTE: We ask if your governor needs to leave early or arrive late to the call, that you communicate this no later than 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20. If not, we will expect your governor is on the call the entire time to potentially provide an update.

RSVP & Call-In/VTC Information – Deadline to RSVP is Saturday April 18 at 5:00 p.m. ET

To RSVP your governor, email please email me (Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov) by **no later than Saturday April 18 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. Once you RSVP your governor, you will receive a call-in information link and guidance. VTC guidance will be provided upon request.

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Zach

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Herron, Robin

From: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) <IGA@messages.dhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Herron, Robin
Subject: Acting Secretary Chad Wolf Statement on Non-Essential Travel

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

Acting Secretary Chad Wolf Statement on Non-Essential Travel

“In close collaboration, the US, Mexico, and Canada have each agreed to extend restrictions on non-essential travel across their shared borders for 30 additional days. As President Trump stated last week, border control, travel restrictions and other limitations remain critical to slowing the spread and allowing the phased opening of the country.”

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www.dhs.gov

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
www.dhs.gov

Herron, Robin

From: Herron, Robin
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: INVITE & RESOURCES: April 21 at 1:30 p.m. ET State-Federal Technical Assistance on COVID-19 Testing & 45-Minute Testing Webinar

Nic,
Can General Carden, Ryan Loke, Caylee Noggle, Anand Balasubramanian, and Lorri Smith all be on the call? If so, can I go ahead and RSVP for them?

Robin Herron
Scheduler
Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp
robin.herron@georgia.gov | cell: (404) 295-0916

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From: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 4:59 PM
To: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO <Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov>; Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO <Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov>; Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO <Ariella.M.Campana@who.eop.gov>
Subject: INVITE & RESOURCES: April 21 at 1:30 p.m. ET State-Federal Technical Assistance on COVID-19 Testing & 45-Minute Testing Webinar

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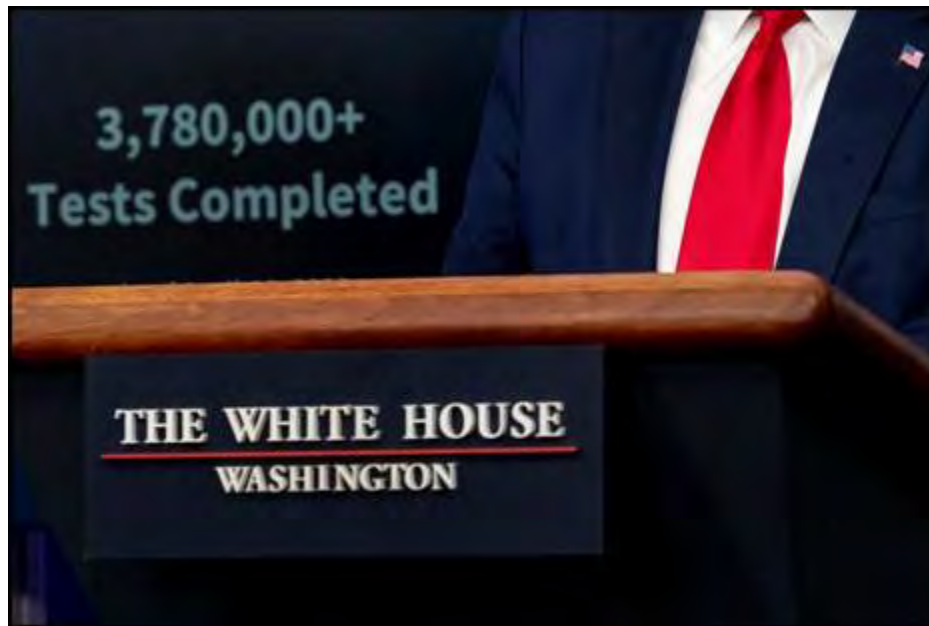
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Thanks,
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Nicholas D. Pottebaum
Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
O: 202-456-2132 | C: 202-881-7803 | E: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov



(Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

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Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 11:54 AM
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Subject: Re: INVITE & RESOURCES: April 21 at 1:30 p.m. ET State-Federal Technical Assistance on COVID-19 Testing & 45-Minute Testing Webinar

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Yes.

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From: Woody Radcliffe <Woody.Radcliffe@gema.ga.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Bryson, Homer
Cc: Noggle, Caylee;Joey Greene;mark.sexton;Thomas Moore;Chuck Ray;Will Lanxton;Wilson, Richard D BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);LTC Louis Perino;Hovis, Scott M COL USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Laird, Julio R Col USAF 116 ACW (USA);Baffic, Stephen P Lt Col USAF 116 ACW (USA);Poole, Anthony B (Tony) COL USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Will Lanxton;Lamar McEwen;Timothy Head;Manny Haldopoulos;Loke, Ryan;tdignam@cdc.gov;Jeff Dickerson;Parker McGee;jay.harvey@sloan.mit.edu;Ashley Larrow;Minarcine, Scott;Anna Adams;Nadeau, Kelly
Subject: Medical Facility EEI Status Report for April 20, 2020
Attachments: Medical Facility EEI Status Report 04-20-2020.xlsx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director Bryson,

See the attached Medical Facility Essential Elements of Information Status Tracker information for April 20, 2020.

All hospitals are asked to update the WebEOC board daily no later than 9 AM; the only three hospitals that had not updated their data as of 2:35 PM today are the following:

<u>Piedmont Columbus Regional - Northside</u> Region I Total Patients: 49 COVID Patients: 0 Persons Under Investigation: 0 Non COVID Patients: 49 Last Update - 4/19/2020, 3:03 PM
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V/R,

Woody

Woody Radcliffe
Planning Section Chief
Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)
935 United Avenue SE
Atlanta, GA 30316
Office: (404) 635-7512

Mobile: (404) 807-1621
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Mobile: (404) 807-1621
woody.radcliffe@gema.ga.gov

Herron, Robin

From: FEMA-IGA <FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:34 PM
To: FEMA-IGA
Subject: FEMA Advisory: COVID-19 Daily Briefing Points (April 20, 2020)
Attachments: FEMA_Advisory_COVID19DailyBriefingPoints_20200420.pdf; ESF15_DailyBriefingPoints_20200420 FINAL.pdf

Importance: High

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FEMA ADVISORY – APRIL 20, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Whole-of-America Response

Attached you will find today's FEMA Daily Briefing Points for the Whole-of-America response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. These briefing points include Topline Messages, as well as Supply Chain Task Force; By the Numbers; FEMA and Department of Health and Human Services Response; and Guidance from Federal Agencies.

Topline messaging includes:

- On **April 16**, President Trump released [Guidelines for Opening America Up Again](#), providing a plan for rolling back social distancing measures and reopening the country's economy in several phases, depending on location.
 - Under the guidelines, states will need to meet six metrics that include demonstrating a downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases over a 14-day period and a robust system for testing health care workers before they can proceed to a phased opening.
 - The federal government will continue to work with governors across the country to ensure they have the equipment, supplies and testing resources to reopen safely and responsibly.
- As of **April 19**, FEMA, HHS, and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of, or are currently shipping: 57.4 million N95 respirators, 77.9 million surgical masks, 6.2 million face shields, 11.9 million surgical gowns, 587 million gloves, 10,998 ventilators and 8,450 federal medical station beds.

- FEMA continues to expedite movement of commercially pre-sourced and commercially procured critical supplies from the global market to medical distributors in various locations across the U.S. through [Project Airbridge](#).
- On **April 17**, Vice President Pence issued a letter to the nation's governors summarizing all the medical equipment and supplies that have been distributed to each state from FEMA from April 1st – 14th through Project Airbridge and the commercial supply network.
- The U.S. has now tested 4.18 million people, which is more total tests than the following nations combined: France, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, India, Austria, Australia, Sweden, and Canada.
 - As conveyed by Dr. Anthony Fauci and Admiral Brett Giroir, there is enough testing capacity for states to move into phase one of reopening when they choose to do so.
 - States should be making full use of the vast testing resources available to them, to include leveraging the full capacity available through commercial laboratories in addition to the capability provided through state laboratories.
 - President Trump and Vice President Pence are working closely with Governors to review what more they can do to develop locally tailored testing strategies.
- HHS and FEMA continue to provide federal support to state run testing.
 - HHS and FEMA have expanded items supplied by the [International Reagent Resource \(IRR\)](#) to help public health labs access free diagnostics supplies and reagents.
 - Consolidating testing supplies under the IRR simplifies the resource request process for states and territories and alleviates the burden on public health labs on needing to work with separate suppliers for swabs, reagents and other diagnostic testing supplies.
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- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
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Herron, Robin

From: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) <IGA@messages.dhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:52 PM
To: Fleming, Tim
Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Whole-of-America Response - April 20
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Herron, Robin

From: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:23 PM
Cc: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO; Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO; Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: INVITE & RESOURCES: April 21 at 1:30 p.m. ET State-Federal Technical Assistance on COVID-19 Testing & 45-Minute Testing Webinar
Attachments: COVID-19 Testing Slides - 04-17-2020.pdf
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Tuesday, April 21 Briefing Call – State-Federal Technical Assistance on COVID-19 Testing

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- **Call-In Information:** [CLICK HERE](#)
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The call will include a question and answer period.

Thanks,
Nic

From: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020
Subject: INVITE & RESOURCES: April 21 at 1:30 p.m. ET State-Federal Technical Assistance on COVID-19 Testing & 45-Minute Testing Webinar



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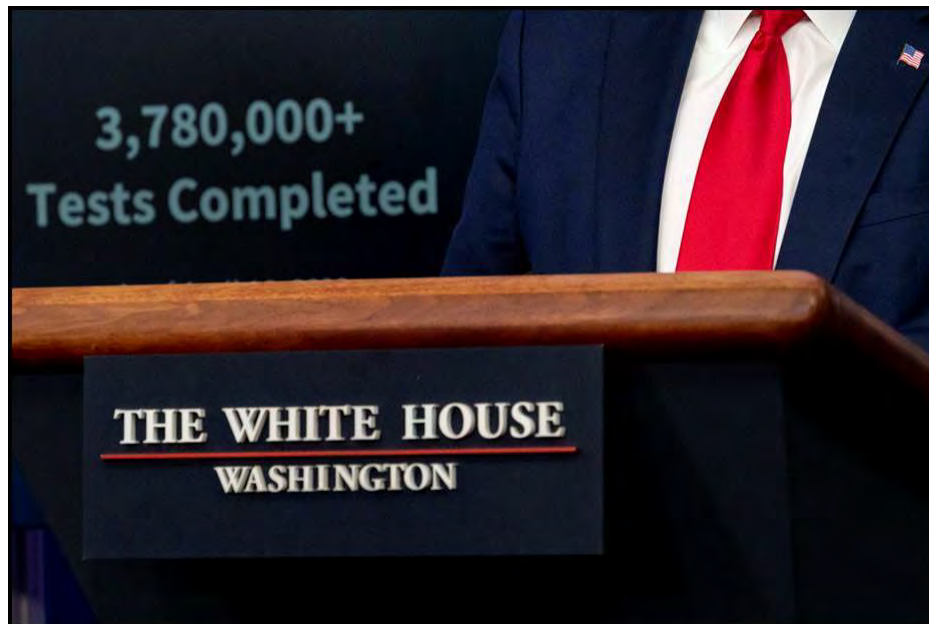
- 45 Minute COVID-19 Testing Webinar
- Leading Testing Practices from and for Our Nation's Governors
- FEMA COVID-19 Emergency Management Best Practices

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Nicholas D. Pottebaum
Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
O: 202-456-2132 | C: 202-881-7803 | E: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov



(Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

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Herron, Robin

From: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:23 PM
Cc: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO; Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO; Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: INVITE & RESOURCES: April 21 at 1:30 p.m. ET State-Federal Technical Assistance on COVID-19 Testing & 45-Minute Testing Webinar
Attachments: COVID-19 Testing Slides - 04-17-2020.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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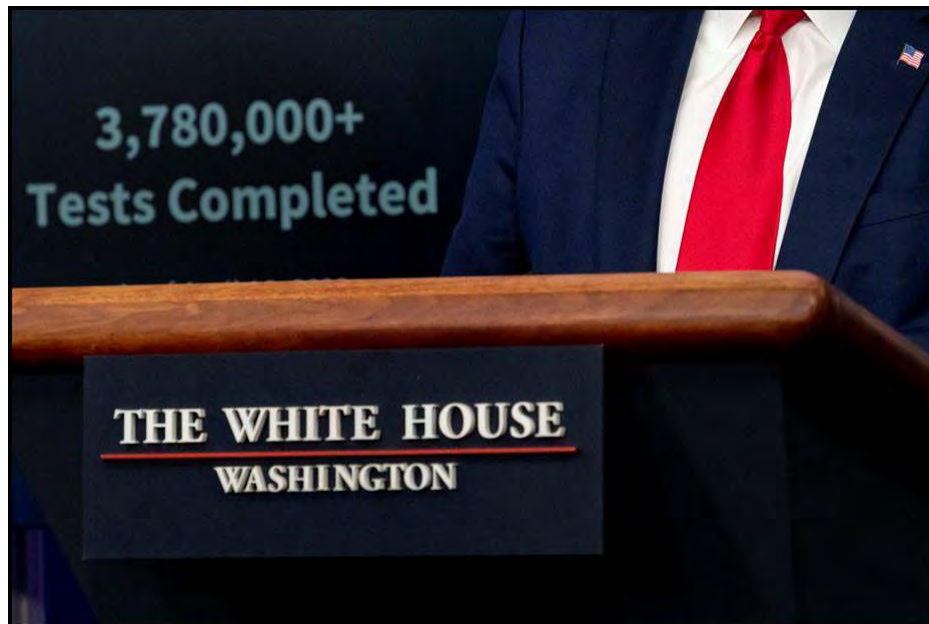
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Herron, Robin

From: Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA) <Lee.Stevens@hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:06 PM
To: Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA); Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA)
Subject: HHS COVID-19 Update, 4-20-2020

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Colleague:

April 20, 2020 updates from HHS:

Guidance Relating to Reopening America

Nursing Home Residents & Their Families Must Be Told When COVID-19 is in Facility: CMS announced [new regulatory requirements for nursing homes](#) that will require nursing homes to inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. In addition, as part of President Trump's Opening Up America, CMS will now require nursing homes to report cases of COVID-19 directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This information must be reported in accordance with existing privacy regulations and statute. This measure augments longstanding requirements for reporting infectious disease to State and local health departments. Finally, CMS will also require nursing homes to fully cooperate with CDC surveillance efforts around COVID-19 spread. CDC will be providing a reporting tool to nursing homes that will support Federal efforts to collect nationwide data to assist in COVID-19 surveillance and response. This joint effort is a result of the CMS-CDC Work Group on Nursing Home Safety. CMS plans to make the data publicly available.

Updated Recommendations on Providing Non-Emergent Non-COVID Care: As states and localities begin to stabilize, [CMS issued guidance on providing essential non-COVID-19 care](#) to patients without symptoms of COVID-19 in regions with low and stable incidence of COVID-19. This is part of Phase 1 in the Trump Administration's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. The new recommendations are specifically targeted to communities that are in Phase 1 of the Guidelines for Opening Up America Again with low incidence or relatively low and stable incidence of COVID-19 cases. The recommendations update earlier guidance provided by CMS on limiting non-essential surgeries and medical procedures. The new CMS guidelines recommend a gradual transition and encourage health care providers to coordinate with local and state public health officials, and to review the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies, workforce availability, facility readiness, and testing capacity when making the decision to re-start or increase in-person care.

Helping to Get and Keep America Open: CDC created a [new webpage](#) that provides support for states, tribes, localities and territories to help them to quickly identify new cases, break chains of transmission, and protect first responders and health care workers from infection. The webpage includes resources on infection prevention and control, laboratory capacity, community mitigation, financial resources, surveillance and data, contact tracing, staffing resources, and communication materials.

Updated Essential Worker Guidance: The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency released version 3.0 of the [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers guidance](#) to help state and local jurisdictions and the private sector identify and manage their essential workforce while responding to COVID-19.

Businesses and Workplaces: Updated information was released for [Businesses and Workplaces](#) that includes reopening guidance, mitigation guidance, decision-making tools for when to reopen, tools and information for prevention and

support, and a recording of the call CDC hosted for the private sector on what CDC knows and is doing in response to the outbreak.

Infographic on Cleaning and Disinfecting Facilities: As part of Reopening America, CDC released an infographic with information on [how to properly clean and disinfect](#) public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools and homes. Specific [cleaning and disinfecting](#) tips are also provided, with disinfection guidance for community facilities and transport vehicles included.

Steps to Stay Safe for Different Entities and Populations: CDC released information on how to [keep different establishments safe](#). Guidance includes keeping the workplace, schools, home, and commercial establishments safe. Additional information was released specifically for [households living in close quarters](#). This guidance is intended for people living together in close quarters, such as people who share a small apartment, or for people who live in the same household with large or extended families and provides information on how to limit risk.

Community Mitigation Activities: CDC updated their [Community Mitigation Framework](#). Community mitigation activities are actions that people and communities can take to slow the spread of infectious diseases. Community mitigation is especially important before a vaccine or drug becomes widely available. This information is now available in multiple languages as well.

HHS Funding and Resources

Best Practices for COVID-19 Response: [FEMA and HHS are collecting and sharing best practices and lessons learned](#) from the whole-of-America response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The best practices are intended to help medical practitioners, emergency managers and other critical stakeholders learn from each other's approaches and apply solutions to current response and recovery operations. The FEMA [Coronavirus Emergency Management Best Practices page](#) provides a one-stop shop to explore best practices and lessons learned across all levels of government, private sector, academic institutions, professional associations and other organizations. HHS has a comprehensive [Novel Coronavirus Resources](#) page that highlights technical resources and information for the medical community and emergency responders.

CDC Response Corp: The [COVID Response Corps](#) is a new, nationwide community-focused initiative to provide surge staffing and resources to support state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19. The Corps builds on and expands CDC's current deployments to communities in need and is part of a multi-pronged approach to help enhance and complement the efforts of state, tribal, local, and territorial staff. This initiative will help health departments with the staffing resources they need for their programs to get and keep America open. Corps members will augment health department teams and will engage in core public health functions, including: Conducting contact tracing; Providing infection prevention and control guidance; Staffing call centers; and Providing COVID-19 education. General information on [staffing resources](#) and assistance that CDC providers was also released.

\$110 Million in Funds Released for Mental Health: [The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) is distributing \\$110 million](#) to help Americans with substance use disorders and serious mental illness receive the treatment they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants total \$110 million and will provide up to \$2 million for successful state applicants and up to \$500,000 for successful territory and tribal applicants for 16 months. For information about the emergency grants, visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2020/FG-20-006>.

Testing and Treatment

Update on Serological Testing: FDA Commissioner Hahn released an [update on FDA's approach to serological tests](#). Antibody tests – also known as serological tests – may have the potential to play a role in this complex calculation. Results from these tests can help identify who has been infected and developed antibodies that may protect from future infection as well as identify those still at risk. Results can also help inform who may qualify to donate blood that can be used to manufacture convalescent plasma, an investigational product for use with those who are seriously ill from COVID-19. The information includes: FDA Approach to Expanding Access to Serology Tests, How the Tests Work, Why Validation Data Are Needed, and Concerns and Education for Frontline Workers and States. Additional serological

testing information released includes: [a Letter to Healthcare Providers on the Importance of the Use of Serological Tests](#), [a Fact Sheet on Serological Testing](#), and [FAQs on Serology/Antibody Testing](#).

New Partnership to Better Understand Effects of Therapeutic Treatments: HHS announced an ongoing partnership with Oracle, including [Oracle's donation of the Therapeutic Learning System](#) to HHS, an online platform designed to collect real-time medical data related to COVID-19. The Therapeutic Learning System is a safe, secure web portal designed to gather crowd-sourced, real-time information to deliver instantaneous analysis of what is working and what is not from the treatment and experience of patients around the country, providing analytics on types of patients, age brackets, underlying health conditions, and symptoms. The data will not be owned by Oracle or any other private entity. Doctors and other clinicians who would like to help provide this data can begin reporting on their work with affected patients immediately at <http://covid19.oracle.com>.

FAQs on Diagnostic Testing: FDA updated their [FAQs on Diagnostic Testing](#). The FAQs cover topics including: what labs and manufacturers are offering COVID-19 tests, General FAQs, What If I Do Not Have..?, Clinical Laboratory FAQs, Test Kit Manufacturer FAQs, and Serology/Antibody FAQs.

Expanding Blood Purification Devices: The FDA issued a new [emergency use authorization \(EUA\) for Extracorporeal Blood Purification \(EBP\)](#) to ExThera Medical Corporation for emergency use of the Seraph 100 Microbind Affinity Blood Filter device to treat patients 18 years of age or older with confirmed COVID-19 admitted to the intensive care unit with confirmed or imminent respiratory failure to reduce pathogens and inflammatory mediators from the bloodstream.

Diagnostics Update: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has worked with more than 320 test developers who have said they will be submitting emergency use authorizations (EUA) requests to FDA for tests that detect the virus. To date, the FDA has issued 39 individual [emergency use authorizations](#) for test kit manufacturers and laboratories. In addition, 16 authorized tests have been added to the EUA letter of authorization for high complexity molecular-based laboratory developed tests (LDTs). The FDA has been notified that more than 190 laboratories have begun testing under the policies set forth in our COVID-19 Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019 during the Public Health Emergency Guidance. The FDA also continues to keep its [COVID-19 Diagnostics FAQ](#) up to date.

Injunction Against Fraudulent Actors: A federal court has entered an [emergency temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction](#) against the Genesis II Church of Health and Healing (Genesis) and four individuals associated with the entity requiring them to immediately stop distributing its "Miracle Mineral Solution" (MMS), an unproven and potentially harmful treatment offered for sale to treat Coronavirus, which includes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and many other diseases. The FDA, jointly with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), previously issued a [warning letter](#) to Genesis and the FDA has [warned consumers](#) numerous times over the past decade not to purchase or drink chlorine dioxide products such as MMS sold as medical treatments. The FDA and FTC requested that the company respond within 48 hours describing the specific steps it has taken to correct the violations. In response to the warning letter, the defendants made clear that they had no intention of taking corrective action and would continue to sell MMS in violation of the law.

Warning Against Fraudulent Actors: The FDA and FTC issued a warning letter to a seller of fraudulent COVID-19 products, as part of the agency's effort to protect consumers. The seller warned, [Nova Botanix LTD DBA CanaBD](#), sells unapproved and misbranded cannabidiol (CBD) products for sale in the U.S. with misleading claims that the products are safe and/or effective for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. There are currently no FDA-approved products to prevent or treat COVID-19. Consumers concerned about COVID-19 should consult with their health care provider.

Case Information

COVID-19 Forecasts: CDC works with partners to bring together [weekly forecasts for COVID-19 deaths](#) in one place. These forecasts have been developed independently and are compared and used to predict changes in national and state level cumulative reported COVID-19 deaths for the next four weeks.

COVID View Summary: CDC released their weekly summary from [COVID-View](#). Nationally, the percentage of laboratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 continued to increase. Visits to outpatient providers and emergency departments (EDs) for illnesses with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are elevated compared to what is normally seen at this time of year but decreased compared to levels reported last week. Hospitalization rates for COVID-19 in older people are higher than what is typically seen early in a flu season. Based on death certificate data, the percentage of deaths attributed to COVID-19, pneumonia or influenza increased from 17.8% during week 14 to 18.8% during week 15.

Demographics Now Included in Daily Case Counts: CDC now includes [demographic characteristics](#) of COVID-19 cases in the United States in their daily case counts.

Guidance for Specific Populations

When to Seek Emergency Care: The Assistant Secretary for Health Adm. Brett Giroir, MD, posted a blog on [When to Seek Emergency Care](#). In the blog, he notes that while you may be concerned about going to a hospital or urgent care site where many people are seeking care for coronavirus, there are some signs and symptoms of a medical emergency that you should always seek treatment for immediately. He writes that everyone should know the signs and symptoms of a medical emergency for which you should always seek treatment immediately and to never avoid emergency rooms or wait to see a doctor if you feel your symptoms are truly serious.

Updates for Laboratories: CDC updated their FAQs on [Testing and Reporting Cases for Laboratories](#). Additionally, CDC's [Laboratory Outreach Communication System information](#) was updated. Currently, LOCS is a functional CDC mailbox (LOCS@cdc.gov) designed to provide updates and answer questions from clinical laboratories through coordination with professional organizations, CDC programs, and state public health laboratories.

Updated FAQs on Infection Control: CDC updated their [Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs for COVID-19](#), which cover clinical questions on COVID-19.

Guidance for Airline and Airport Workers: CDC released information on [What Airline Catering Kitchens Need to Know](#) and [What Airport Retail and Service Workers](#). The information includes how to protect yourself, what steps your employer should take and where to find additional information.

Investigating at Homeless Sites: CDC updated their guidance on [investigating and responding to COVID-19 cases at homeless service provider sites](#).

Information for Different Types of Drivers: CDC released information on [What Mail and Parcel Delivery Drivers Need to Know about COVID-19](#), [What Rideshare, Taxi, Limo, and other Passenger Drivers-for-Hire Need to Know about COVID-19](#), and [What Food and Grocery Drivers Need to Know](#). Although the virus can survive for a short period on some surfaces, it is unlikely to be spread from products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at regular temperatures. Updated guidance is also available for [Firefighters and EMS Providers](#). The information in each of these guidances includes how to protect yourself and others, steps an employer should take, and additional resources.

If you have questions, please contact Darcie.Johnston@hhs.gov.

Stay safe.

Laura

Laura C. Trueman
Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW

Herron, Robin

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The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

William F. Crozer
Special Assistant to the President/Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs



Download the COVID-19 App

COVID-19: Important Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Officials



- **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again:** On Thursday, April 16, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force unveiled [new guidelines](#) ([download here](#)) for the reopening of America. Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The guidelines also set clear benchmarks on new cases, testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country.
- **Coronavirus Guidelines for America:** On Tuesday, March 31, the White House announced updated [Coronavirus Guidelines for America \(Español\)](#), extending social distancing efforts through April 30. On April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued [guidance](#) recommending individuals wear cloth face coverings *in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain* (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies, particularly in areas of significant community-based transmission). On April 8, CDC also provided [guidelines](#) regarding when people in critical infrastructure roles can return to work after being exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Additional information on critical infrastructure below.
- **Up-To-Date Information:** The most up-to-date, verified information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website – www.coronavirus.gov. The Coronavirus Task Force holds frequent briefings, which can be viewed live [here](#).
- **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Primer:** Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. It is important that requests for assistance, including for critical supplies, get routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. Learn more about the response and recovery process via this important resource – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Response and Recovery Through Federal-State-Local-Tribal Partnership](#). FEMA's public assistance guidance for COVID-19 response efforts can be found [here](#). Guidance for Tribal Governments can be found [here](#).
- **Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidelines:** On March 16th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued updated [critical infrastructure guidance](#) in response to the COVID-19 emergency. DHS continues to work with stakeholders in the critical infrastructure community to update the advisory list if necessary as the Nation's response to COVID-19 evolves. The guidance, and accompanying list, is intended to help State, local, tribal and territorial officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring

continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The list is advisory in nature and is not a federal directive or standard.

- **Rural Resource Guide:** USDA and Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses, and communities. USDA developed a [resource guide](#) for State, Local, and Tribal leaders, and other stakeholders.
- **Coronavirus Fact vs. Myth:** Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis. FEMA setup a [website](#) to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Fraud & Scam Protection:** The Department of Justice is remaining vigilant in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting wrongdoing related to the crisis. Find out how you can protect yourself and helpful resources on DOJ's Coronavirus Fraud Prevention [website](#). The Federal Trade Commission has also established a [website](#) with helpful information to help consumers avoid coronavirus-related scams.
- **Social Media Resources:** Download the [Apple COVID-19 Screening Tool](#). Follow the White House on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Also follow HHS ([Twitter/Facebook](#)) and CDC ([Twitter/Facebook](#)) You can also find informational videos from Coronavirus Task Force members on mitigation, social distancing, etc. on the White House's [YouTube](#) page.
- **Mental Health Resources:** Natural disasters – including such pandemics as the coronavirus outbreak – can be overwhelming and also can seriously affect emotional health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline – 1-800-985-5990 (or text TalkWithUs to 66746) – provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to anyone who is seeking help in coping with the mental or emotional effects caused by developments related to the coronavirus pandemic. Learn more about the Disaster Distress Helpline [here](#).
- **Addiction & Substance Abuse Resources:** The COVID-19 pandemic has created countless challenges for those delivering care to our most vulnerable populations. People with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) are especially at high risk suffering complications from COVID-19. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which leads and coordinates the development, implementation, and assessment of U.S. drug policy, released a [fact sheet](#) that contains information on Federal actions to expand telemedicine and e-prescribing, to increase flexibility for treatment with methadone and buprenorphine, to improve access to prescribed controlled substances, and to expand assistance to rural areas.
- **Administration Actions and Federal Agency Resources:** USA.gov is cataloging all U.S. government activities related to coronavirus. From actions on health and safety to travel, immigration, and transportation to education, find pertinent actions [here](#). Each Federal Agency has also established a dedicated coronavirus website, where you can find important information and guidance. They include: Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)), Centers of Medicare and Medicaid ([CMS](#)), Food and Drug Administration ([FDA](#)), Department of Education ([DoED](#)), Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)), Small Business Administration ([SBA](#)), Department of Labor ([DOL](#)), Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)), Department of State ([DOS](#)), Department of Veterans Affairs ([VA](#)), Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)), Department of Energy ([DOE](#)), Department of Commerce ([DOC](#)), Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)), Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)), Department of the Treasury ([USDT](#)), Internal Revenue Service ([IRS](#)), Office of the Director of National Intelligence ([ODNI](#)), and U.S. Election Assistance Commission ([EAC](#)).

Herron, Robin

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Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 9:58 PM
To: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
Cc: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO; Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP; Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO; Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO
Subject: 4/20 Follow-Up - Governors Briefing on COVID-19
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Governors and Senior Staff,

Thank you for your efforts in the whole-of-America approach to respond to COVID-19 and plan for America's economic recovery. Below are follow-up items from today's briefing.

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April 16, the President and Vice President released the ***Guidelines for Opening Up American Again*** (20-page slide deck; [Opening America](#)). The guidelines give States gating criteria in a proposed three phased approach based on the following criteria: (1) Up-to-Date Data and Readiness; (2) Mitigates Risk of Resurgence; (3) Protects the Most Vulnerable; and (4) Implementable on Statewide or County-by-County Basis at Governors' Direction.

State-by-State Testing Platform Information

Governors' leadership of the testing ecosystems in their States is critical, including scaling and utilizing all testing capacity, improving transparency on all testing options, managing the workflow to maximize all testing capacity through high-throughput platforms. We want to thank you for your leadership in this endeavor.

As we work together to support the optimal use of the diagnostic assets in your state, it may also be helpful to consider locations that could act as regional testing centers in order to service specific, targeted geographies within your State in a hub and spoke manner than can help provide technical support and communication across the State. The platforms are a mix of high and low throughput of tests with differential turn-around times and will need to strategically be matched to daily needs. **The development of an integrated lab strategy in your State will allow for a more efficient use of diagnostic reagents, facilitate optimal workflows and workforce utilization, and provide more continuity of testing capacity with defined turnaround times for results. Rapid and efficient testing will help identify pockets of viral emergence and allow for rapid contact tracing and effective control.**

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- **Increase Payment for High-Production Coronavirus Lab Tests:** CMS announced Medicare is doubling payment for certain lab tests that use high-throughput technologies to rapidly diagnose large numbers of COVID-19 cases. Additional information [here](#).
- **CMS Pays for COVID-19 Specimen Collection: CMS will pay specimen collection fees for COVID-19 testing for homebound and non-hospital inpatients,** to help facilitate the testing of homebound individuals and those unable to travel. As a result of these actions, laboratories will have expanded capability to test more vulnerable populations, like nursing home patients, quickly and provide results faster. Additional information [here](#).
- **FDA, Gates Foundation, UnitedHealth Group, Quantigen, and U.S. Cotton Collaborate to Address Testing Supply Needs:** FDA announced a further expansion of COVID-19 testing options through the recognition that spun synthetic swabs – with a design similar to Q-tips – could be used to test patients by collecting a sample from the front of the nose. More details [here](#).
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- **Additional Testing Resources:** FDA [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) and 24/7 technical assistance for labs (1-888-463-6332).

Project Airbridge State & County-Level Data

Prior to today's briefing, each governor and staff received State- and county-specific information on personal protection equipment (PPE) and other critical supplies being distributed to healthcare providers through the normal commercial supplier distribution system as the result of Project Airbridge and additional commercial supply chain acquisitions. The PPE was distributed to healthcare facilities in your State through the normal commercial supplier distribution system. Project Airbridge has greatly helped expedite sourcing of key materials from around the world and more efficiently distribute these vital resources to hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, pre-hospital medical services, state and local governments, and other facilities critical to caring for the American people during this pandemic. If you need this state-Specific information re-sent, please let me know.

***BEST PRACTICE*:** Vice President Pence and Amb. Birx both highlighted the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis (FL) for Florida's informative and user friendly COVID-19 website. You can find the website [here](#).

Below, you will find additional information and resources mentioned on today's briefing call:

- Contacting Your FEMA Regional Administrator
- Recommendations to Re-Open Health Care Systems in Areas with Low Incidence of COVID-19
- CISA Releases Version 3.0 of Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers
- FEMA COVID-19 Best Practices
- Leading Testing Practices from & for Our Nation's Governors

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Intergovernmental Affairs Office

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[Slow the Spread](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has activated the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) 24/7. All requests to the Federal government ***must be formally communicated*** by your **State emergency manager** to your **FEMA Regional Administrator**. This is the same process as natural disasters (e.g., hurricane recovery, flood recovery, tornado recovery, etc.).

Please ensure your State is reporting key information from their State emergency manager to the FEMA Regional Administrator. Most States are reporting this data on a daily basis, which is appreciated and ***we ask you to take action to ensure your State continues doing this on a regular basis***. This reporting includes:

- Daily broad healthcare capacity data reporting on key hospital capacity and ventilator use metrics.
- Daily State's stockpile inventory and hospital PPE supplies to assist with our prioritization of supplies and equipment deliveries to areas most in need.

Recommendations to Re-Open Health Care Systems in Areas with Low Incidence of COVID-19

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued new recommendations specifically targeted to communities that are in Phase 1 of the Guidelines for President Trump's Opening Up America Again with low incidence or relatively low and stable incidence of COVID-19 cases. The recommendations update earlier guidance provided by CMS on limiting non-essential surgeries and medical procedures. The new CMS guidelines recommend a gradual transition and encourage health care providers to coordinate with local and state public health officials, and to review the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies, workforce availability, facility readiness, and testing capacity when making the decision to re-start or increase in-person care. Recommendations can be found [here](#).

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The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released version 3.0 of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers guidance to help State and local jurisdictions and the private sector identify and manage their essential workforce while responding to COVID-19. Version 3.0 of the guidance clarifies and expands critical infrastructure workers in several categories and provides additional information as considerations for both government and business. The guidance can be found [here](#).

- As a reminder, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has [released guidance](#) for implementing safety practices for critical infrastructure workers who may have had exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

FEMA COVID-19 Best Practices

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are collecting and sharing best practices and lessons learned from the whole-of-America response to COVID-19. The best practices are intended to help medical practitioners, emergency managers, and other critical stakeholders learn from each other's approaches and apply solutions to current response and recovery operations. The [FEMA Coronavirus Emergency Management Best Practices](#) page provides a one-stop shop to explore best practices and lessons learned across all levels of government, private sector, academic institutions, professional associations, and other organizations. Key best practices for States include:

- [Personal Protective Equipment Preservation](#)
- [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#)
- [Recovery Planning and Implementation Financial Management Guide](#)

Leading Testing Practices from & for Our Nation's Governors

Below are leading practice from and for our Nation's governors who are leveraging enhanced testing, improving community monitoring and contact tracing. We welcome learning more about your State's best practices.

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- **Gov. Greg Abbott (TX)** [announced](#) Walgreens drive-thru testing site sites in Texas. Walgreens is operating additional sites in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Tennessee.
- **Gov. Bill (TN)** [expanded](#) testing options by establishing 15 drive-through testing sites across the State available to anyone. In addition to drive-through testing sites, Tennesseans can get a test free of charge, five days a week at every rural county health department in the state.

- **Gov. Gina Raimondo (RI), Gov. Charlie Baker (MA), Gov. Brian Kemp (GA)** have all [announced](#) a rapid COVID-19 tests partnership with CVS Health.
- **Governor Jim Justice (WV)** [ordered](#) all nursing home residents and staff statewide to be tested for COVID-19.

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- **Gov. Gina Raimondo (RI), Gov. Charlie Baker (MA), Gov. Brian Kemp (GA)** have all [announced](#) a rapid COVID-19 tests partnership with CVS Health.
- **Governor Jim Justice (WV)** [ordered](#) all nursing home residents and staff statewide to be tested for COVID-19.

Herron, Robin

From: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 9:58 PM
To: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
Cc: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO; Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP; Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO; Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO
Subject: 4/20 Follow-Up - Governors Briefing on COVID-19
Attachments: American Clinical Laboratory Association Swab & Media Options 04-20-2020.pdf; Testing Update Slide Deck - 04-20-2020.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Governors and Senior Staff,

Thank you for your efforts in the whole-of-America approach to respond to COVID-19 and plan for America's economic recovery. Below are follow-up items from today's briefing.

Guidelines for Opening Up American Again

April 16, the President and Vice President released the ***Guidelines for Opening Up American Again*** (20-page slide deck; [Opening America](#)). The guidelines give States gating criteria in a proposed three phased approach based on the following criteria: (1) Up-to-Date Data and Readiness; (2) Mitigates Risk of Resurgence; (3) Protects the Most Vulnerable; and (4) Implementable on Statewide or County-by-County Basis at Governors' Direction.

State-by-State Testing Platform Information

Governors' leadership of the testing ecosystems in their States is critical, including scaling and utilizing all testing capacity, improving transparency on all testing options, managing the workflow to maximize all testing capacity through high-throughput platforms. We want to thank you for your leadership in this endeavor.

As we work together to support the optimal use of the diagnostic assets in your state, it may also be helpful to consider locations that could act as regional testing centers in order to service specific, targeted geographies within your State in a hub and spoke manner than can help provide technical support and communication across the State. The platforms are a mix of high and low throughput of tests with differential turn-around times and will need to strategically be matched to daily needs. **The development of an integrated lab strategy in your State will allow for a more efficient use of diagnostic reagents, facilitate optimal workflows and workforce utilization, and provide more continuity of testing capacity with defined turnaround times for results. Rapid and efficient testing will help identify pockets of viral emergence and allow for rapid contact tracing and effective control.**

- **State-by-State Testing Platform Information:** Prior to today's briefing, each governor and staff received State-by-State testing platform information that included State-specific high and low throughput machine location map and location details (if you need this state-specific information re-sent, please let me know).

- **Testing Approach Presentation:** Attached you will find the testing approach slide deck that Amb. Birx discussed on today's call (this document was previously provided in read ahead material today).

Testing Resources

- **Swab & Media Options:** In today's briefing, Adm. Giroir highlighted the vast swabs and media options available. *Attached you will find a tables of swab and media options by laboratory.* More information [here](#).
- **Technical Briefing for State Leaders & Staff:** The White House is holding a State-Federal COVID-19 testing technical assistance briefing call on Tuesday, April 21 at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Federal participants on the call include Amb. Birx, HHS Adm. Giroir, and others from FDA, CDC, and FEMA. You can register for the call [here](#).
- **Increase Payment for High-Production Coronavirus Lab Tests:** CMS announced Medicare is doubling payment for certain lab tests that use high-throughput technologies to rapidly diagnose large numbers of COVID-19 cases. Additional information [here](#).
- **CMS Pays for COVID-19 Specimen Collection: CMS will pay specimen collection fees for COVID-19 testing for homebound and non-hospital inpatients,** to help facilitate the testing of homebound individuals and those unable to travel. As a result of these actions, laboratories will have expanded capability to test more vulnerable populations, like nursing home patients, quickly and provide results faster. Additional information [here](#).
- **FDA, Gates Foundation, UnitedHealth Group, Quantigen, and U.S. Cotton Collaborate to Address Testing Supply Needs:** FDA announced a further expansion of COVID-19 testing options through the recognition that spun synthetic swabs – with a design similar to Q-tips – could be used to test patients by collecting a sample from the front of the nose. More details [here](#).
- **Reminder – FDA Delegates Authority to States:** On March 16, the FDA put in place a policy for states to take responsibility for tests developed and used by laboratories in their states. States can set up a system in which they take responsibility for authorizing such tests and the laboratories will not engage with the FDA. This includes expanding swab options as Colorado as done. More information [here](#).
- **Additional Testing Resources:** FDA [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) and 24/7 technical assistance for labs (1-888-463-6332).

Project Airbridge State & County-Level Data

Prior to today's briefing, each governor and staff received State- and county-specific information on personal protection equipment (PPE) and other critical supplies being distributed to healthcare providers through the normal commercial supplier distribution system as the result of Project Airbridge and additional commercial supply chain acquisitions. The PPE was distributed to healthcare facilities in your State through the normal commercial supplier distribution system. Project Airbridge has greatly helped expedite sourcing of key materials from around the world and more efficiently distribute these vital resources to hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, pre-hospital medical services, state and local governments, and other facilities critical to caring for the American people during this pandemic. If you need this state-Specific information re-sent, please let me know.

***BEST PRACTICE*:** Vice President Pence and Amb. Birx both highlighted the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis (FL) for Florida's informative and user friendly COVID-19 website. You can find the website [here](#).

Below, you will find additional information and resources mentioned on today's briefing call:

- Contacting Your FEMA Regional Administrator
- Recommendations to Re-Open Health Care Systems in Areas with Low Incidence of COVID-19
- CISA Releases Version 3.0 of Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers
- FEMA COVID-19 Best Practices
- Leading Testing Practices from & for Our Nation's Governors

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to the Office of the Vice President or White House Intergovernmental Affairs Office.

Intergovernmental Affairs Office

Name	Cell Phone	Email
Doug Hoelscher	202-881-8950	Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov
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Office of the Vice President

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Thanks,
Nic

--

Nicholas D. Pottebaum
Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
O: 202-456-2132 | C: 202-881-7803 | E: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov

[Slow the Spread](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contacting Your FEMA Regional Administrator

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has activated the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) 24/7. All requests to the Federal government ***must be formally communicated*** by your **State emergency manager** to your **FEMA Regional Administrator**. This is the same process as natural disasters (e.g., hurricane recovery, flood recovery, tornado recovery, etc.).

Please ensure your State is reporting key information from their State emergency manager to the FEMA Regional Administrator. Most States are reporting this data on a daily basis, which is appreciated and ***we ask you to take action to ensure your State continues doing this on a regular basis***. This reporting includes:

- Daily broad healthcare capacity data reporting on key hospital capacity and ventilator use metrics.
- Daily State's stockpile inventory and hospital PPE supplies to assist with our prioritization of supplies and equipment deliveries to areas most in need.

Recommendations to Re-Open Health Care Systems in Areas with Low Incidence of COVID-19

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued new recommendations specifically targeted to communities that are in Phase 1 of the Guidelines for President Trump's Opening Up America Again with low incidence or relatively low and stable incidence of COVID-19 cases. The recommendations update earlier guidance provided by CMS on limiting non-essential surgeries and medical procedures. The new CMS guidelines recommend a gradual transition and encourage health care providers to coordinate with local and state public health officials, and to review the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies, workforce availability, facility readiness, and testing capacity when making the decision to re-start or increase in-person care. Recommendations can be found [here](#).

CISA Releases Version 3.0 of Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released version 3.0 of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers guidance to help State and local jurisdictions and the private sector identify and manage their essential workforce while responding to COVID-19. Version 3.0 of the guidance clarifies and expands critical infrastructure workers in several categories and provides additional information as considerations for both government and business. The guidance can be found [here](#).

- As a reminder, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has [released guidance](#) for implementing safety practices for critical infrastructure workers who may have had exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

FEMA COVID-19 Best Practices

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are collecting and sharing best practices and lessons learned from the whole-of-America response to COVID-19. The best practices are intended to help medical practitioners, emergency managers, and other critical stakeholders learn from each other's approaches and apply solutions to current response and recovery operations. The [FEMA Coronavirus Emergency Management Best Practices](#) page provides a one-stop shop to explore best practices and lessons learned across all levels of government, private sector, academic institutions, professional associations, and other organizations. Key best practices for States include:

- [Personal Protective Equipment Preservation](#)
- [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#)
- [Recovery Planning and Implementation Financial Management Guide](#)

Leading Testing Practices from & for Our Nation's Governors

Below are leading practice from and for our Nation's governors who are leveraging enhanced testing, improving community monitoring and contact tracing. We welcome learning more about your State's best practices.

- **Gov. Doug Ducey (AZ)** [announced](#) antibody testing for 250,000 health professionals and first responders through a partnership between the state of Arizona and the University of Arizona following Federal approval.
- **Gov. Gavin Newsom (CA)** [announced](#) a new testing task force creating 5-7 high-capacity testing "hubs" through a partnership with U.C. San Diego and U.C. Davis.
- **Gov. Andy Beshear (KY)** [announced](#) a public-private testing partnership with Kroeger to expand drive-through COVID-19 with the goal of testing 20,000 people in five weeks. UPS and Gravity Diagnostics are working to provide test results in 48 hours.
- **Gov. Ron DeSantis (FL)** [announced](#) major expansions to statewide testing with the goal of opening up additional testing sites and expanding spot testing by enlisting members of the Florida National Guard to test in Florida nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- **Gov. Kim Reynolds (IA)** [worked](#) with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics to leverage further testing capacity at an academic institution. Gov. Reynolds also [announced](#) Iowa is dispatching state employees to assist in contact tracing.
- **Governor Eric Holcomb (IN)** [announced](#) additional free drive-thru testing clinics.
- **Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (MI)** [announced](#) 13 new or expanded COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites in partnership with Michigan Primary Care Association, 11 health centers, and NxGen MDX Laboratory. Additionally, Michigan is partnering with Walmart to expand drive-thru testing sites. Walmart has announce additional partnerships in 10 total states.
- **Gov. Doug Burgum (ND)** [announced](#) pilot project to expand COVID-19 testing and improve tracing to slow spread of virus.
- **Gov. Pete Ricketts (NE)** [worked](#) with the Nebraska State Health Lab in maximizing reagent by pooling multiple people's COVID-19 samples together, saving resources and time.
- **Gov. Andrew Cuomo (NY)** [signed](#) an executive order to expand antibody testing that will expand the number of people who are eligible to conduct the coronavirus antibody test.
- **Governor Mike DeWine (OH)** [worked](#) with the Ohio State University Wexler Medical Center to expand and accelerate testing creating a sterile solution to transport testing swaps (called viral transport media) that stabilizes the virus, and has worked with university engineering and dentistry departments to 3D print more than 50,000 swabs for tests.
- **Gov. Greg Abbott (TX)** [announced](#) Walgreens drive-thru testing site sites in Texas. Walgreens is operating additional sites in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Tennessee.
- **Gov. Bill (TN)** [expanded](#) testing options by establishing 15 drive-through testing sites across the State available to anyone. In addition to drive-through testing sites, Tennesseans can get a test free of charge, five days a week at every rural county health department in the state.

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Herron, Robin

From: Latcham, Alexander S. EOP/WHO <Alexander.S.Latcham@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:26 PM
To: Latcham, Alexander S. EOP/WHO
Subject: 04/20 COVID-19 Update

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

Please see highlights from today's Coronavirus Task Force briefing, as well as additional guidance and resources addressing COVID-19.

Tomorrow, President Trump meets with the Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York State at 4:00pm ET. Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press briefing at 5:00pm ET.

Additional Guidance (as of 4.20, 5pm):

- **WH** - President Donald J. Trump Approves American Samoa Disaster Declaration ([Click here](#))
- **WH** - Executive Order on National Emergency Authority to Temporarily Extend Deadlines for Certain Estimated Payments ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - What Food and Grocery Pick-up and Delivery Drivers Need to Know about COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - What Rideshare, Taxi, Limo, and other Passenger Drivers-for-Hire Need to Know about COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Contact Tracing ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Resources for State, Local, Territorial and Tribal Health Departments ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - CDC Response Corps to Support State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Health Departments ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - COVID-19 Forecasts for the United States ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Support for States, Tribes, Localities and Territories ([Click here](#))
- **CMS** - CMS Issues Recommendations to Re-Open Health Care Systems in Areas with Low Incidence of COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - April 17 Daily Roundup ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - Serological Test Validation and Education Efforts ([Click here](#))
- **NIH** - Investigational chimp adenovirus MERS-CoV vaccine protects monkeys ([Click here](#))
- **NIH** - Antiviral remdesivir prevents disease progression in monkeys with COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **USDA** - USDA Announces Coronavirus Food Assistance Program ([Click here](#))
- **USDA** - West Virginia Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program ([Click here](#))
- **USDA** - USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in Arizona and Illinois ([Click here](#))
- **DHS** - Acting Secretary Chad Wolf Statement on the President's Executive Order on Duties and Fees Deferment for Certain Importers ([Click here](#))
- **DHS** - Acting Secretary Chad Wolf Statement on Non-Essential Travel ([Click here](#))
- **DHS-FEMA/HHS** - FEMA and HHS Share Best Practices for Coronavirus Pandemic Response ([Click here](#))
- **DOJ** - Justice Department Issues Business Review Letter to AmerisourceBergen Supporting Distribution of Critical Medicines Under Expedited Procedure for COVID-19 Pandemic Response ([Click here](#))
- **VA** - VA acquires Texas community hospital to fight COVID-19 and care for Veterans in the future ([Click here](#))

Alex Latcham
Special Assistant to the President
White House Office of Political Affairs

HIGHLIGHTS | President Trump and the Coronavirus Task Force Provide an Update to Americans

RE-OPENING THE COUNTRY SAFELY

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "Following the release of our reopening guidelines, governors across the country are looking forward to phase one and announcing plans for an economic resurgence."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "During this time, Americans must maintain strict vigilance and continue to practice careful hygiene, social distancing, and the other protective measures that we have outlined, and that everyone's become very familiar with. We continue to be encouraged that many of the areas hardest hit by the virus appear to have turned the corner."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "Recent deaths are down very, very substantially. You can compare that with their peak not so long ago, and you have numbers of 30%, 25%. And Detroit, as an example, it's down over by over 50% - congratulations. And in New Orleans, where they've done a terrific job, they're down 65%."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "30 states have just one case or less per 1,000 people. Far fewer cases per capita, as an example, than Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Ireland, Switzerland, Singapore, Belgium, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden."

WORKING WITH GOVERNORS ON TESTING

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "Earlier today, Vice President Pence spoke with governors from all 50 states about our unified effort to defeat the virus ... Prior to the call, we provided each governor with a list of the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the labs where they can find additional testing capacity within their state."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "Similar to the situation with ventilators, states need to assess their complete inventory of available capacity. Some states have far more capacity than they actually understand."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "Governors are continuing to expand testing and we assured them that we're going to continue to work in every way to support their efforts to do just that."

TESTING UPDATE

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "To date, the United States has conducted millions more tests than any other country. You can add them all up and they don't catch us. And our numbers are doubling almost on a -- certainly on a monthly basis, but almost on a weekly basis, we're moving very rapidly."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We'll be doubling our number of daily tests if the governors bring their states fully online through the capability that they have."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "As the experts have explained, this capacity is sufficient to allow states to conduct diagnostic testing to treat patients, as well as contact tracing to contain outbreaks and monitoring to pinpoint potential hot spots during phase one."

DR. DEBORAH BIRX: “[Adm. Giroir and CMS Deputy Administrator Smith] have prepared to have everything ready for phase two. And preparing it now for what we will need in the future.”

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ADM. GIROIR: “There’s been over 40 million ‘[tests] in the marketplace.’ But we have an end to end issue that we needed to deal with and that’s what we’ve been dealing with: the swabs, the transport media. If we don’t have people utilizing the machines the way Dr. Birx is talking about -- we have some of our main platforms that are only 10% being utilized. You could have a lot of tests in the market and those are correct numbers, but if the machines aren’t utilizing them and they’re not organized at that level, then they’re not being utilized to its fullest.”

SUPPLIES OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “We have almost 10,000 [ventilators] in our federal reserve, our stockpile as they call it and we did a great job with the ventilators. Unfortunately, the press doesn’t cover it other than the fair press.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “My Administration also continues to support states with our massive operation to deliver masks, gowns, gloves and other vital supplies. Admiral Polowczyk and his team at [FEMA] are really — what a job they’ve done. ... They’re using detailed data about supply chains to track the deployment of one billion pieces of protective equipment through private distributors every two weeks.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “We’ve also conducted major military operations providing cities and states with additional medical capacity and the incredible 1,800 men and women from the Army Corps of Engineers.”

LT. GEN. SEMONITE: “We’re actually executing 32 different facilities, that’s on the order of merit of about 16,000 beds. Eight of those are all done, we’ve still got a lot more to complete, and in the next week and a half, we’re going to complete about 15 more facilities.”

TREATMENTS AND THERAPEUTICS

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “There are now 72 active trials underway across the United States, researching dozens of therapies and treatments, and another 211 are in the planning stages ... This includes their therapies designed to attack the virus, as well as others that would hinder its replication, reduce the rate of infection, control the immunity response, or transfer lifesaving antibodies from the blood of recovered patients.”

NEW FUNDING PACKAGE

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “My administration continues to press Congress to replenish the enormously successful Paycheck Protection Program, which has impacted 30 million American jobs. We hope to have an agreement very soon.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “We’re also pushing for the deal to include an additional \$75 billion -- our deal that we’re talking about. \$75 billion for hospitals and other health care providers.”

SUPPORT FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “HHS has also distributed the first 30 billion dollars in direct payments to a million health care providers across the country.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “We’ve also invested 1.4 billion dollars in community health centers to ensure our most vulnerable communities, including many African-American and Hispanic American communities have access to the services and testing that they need.”

OIL PRICES

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “Based on the record low price of oil that you’ve been seeing – it’s at a level that’s very interesting to a lot of people – we’re filling up our national petroleum reserves, strategic, and all the strategic reserves. And we’re looking to put as much as 75 million barrels into the reserves themselves.”

###

Herron, Robin

From: Jeffrey Dickerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Carden, Thomas M Jr MG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA)
Cc: Berry, Frank;Haldopoulos, Emmanuel I (Manny) Brig Gen USAF GA CRTC (USA);Hood, Joseph;Laird, Julio R Col USAF 116 ACW (USA);Loke, Ryan;Lucas Rice;mark.sexton;Marshall, Kris J COL USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Noggle, Caylee;Tim Dignam;Wilson, Richard D BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Simmons, Randall V Jr BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);lrice@ldxsolutions.com;Darryl Graham;Matthew Hicks
Subject: Interagency COVID-19 Response Planning Team Update, 210900APR20

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sir – This morning's update is outlined below:

1. **GWCC ACF-Atlanta:** One patient remains at the site. 199 beds available. Additional PPE arrived on site.

2. **Additional Augmentation Efforts:**

GEMA is finalizing draft MOUs for all 4 locations for Temporary Medical Units and customizing them for site specific issues.

Rome: Site work is done and ready to receive containers which arrive Friday night/Saturday morning. FOC expected 28APR.

Albany: All on site coordination is going well. Final HVAC work, electrical and oxygen supply lines are today's focus. FOC Expected 28APR.

Macon: Site work continues with no issues. FOC expected 5MAY.

Gainesville: Site work continues with no issues. FOC expected 5MAY.

3. **Additional Hospital Staffing:** We conducted a call with Region I regarding staffing shortfalls. They may need additional critical care nurses and techs if the number of COVID-19 patients increases (primarily in Crisp County). Additional staff are being readied via Jackson Staffing to deploy to Crisp County.

4. **DBHDD:** NSTR

Vr,
Jeff

Jeff Dickerson
GA DOD Interagency Coordinator for COVID-19 Response
Email: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

Herron, Robin

From: Jeffrey Dickerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Carden, Thomas M Jr MG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA)
Cc: Berry, Frank;Haldopoulos, Emmanuel I (Manny) Brig Gen USAF GA CRTC (USA);Hood, Joseph;Laird, Julio R Col USAF 116 ACW (USA);Loke, Ryan;Lucas Rice;mark.sexton;Marshall, Kris J COL USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Noggle, Caylee;Tim Dignam;Wilson, Richard D BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Simmons, Randall V Jr BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);lrice@ldxsolutions.com;Darryl Graham;Matthew Hicks
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Vr,
Jeff

Jeff Dickerson
GA DOD Interagency Coordinator for COVID-19 Response
Email: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

Herron, Robin

From: Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO <William.F.Crozer@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:02 AM
To: Loke, Ryan
Subject: FW: INVITATION: State-Federal Technical Assistance Briefing Call on COVID-19 Testing (Tuesday, 1:30PM ET)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:00 AM
Subject: INVITATION: State-Federal Technical Assistance Briefing Call on COVID-19 Testing (Tuesday, 1:30PM ET)



President Trump and Vice President Pence remain committed to working with governors and state and public health officials to continue to scale testing across the Nation. Together, we have completed over 3.7 million tests for COVID-19 across the Nation thanks to State and local public health officials, academic and hospital laboratories, commercial laboratories, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Department of Veterans Affairs, and point-of-care test manufacturers. Governors are leading their entire testing ecosystem in their State, including scaling and utilizing all testing capacity, improving transparency on all testing options, managing the workflow to maximize all testing capacity through high-throughput platforms, bolstering contact tracing, and ensuring supply chain management of critical resources and healthcare capacity.

Today, April 21, we are providing a State-Federal COVID-19 testing technical assistance briefing call with members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), U.S. Food & Drug Administration, and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Details on the briefing call below.

Tuesday, April 21 Briefing Call – State-Federal Technical Assistance on COVID-19 Testing

- **Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020
- **Time:** 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time (60 minutes)
- **Call-In Information:** [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Note:** *This call is intended for only State and community officials who are advising their States and governor on testing.*

Additional Information

- **Key Resource to Expanding Testing Resources:** Medicare recently [doubled the payment for lab tests](#) that use high-throughput technologies and Medicare [pays for specimen collection](#) to expand geographic testing capabilities. *Additional details below.*

- **45 Minute COVID-19 Testing Webinar:** During the Friday, April 17 press briefing, the Vice President, Dr. Fauci, Dr. Redfield, Dr. Birx, and Dr. Giroir provided a 45 minute technical briefing on testing. *Resources and the full video of the 45 minute briefing can be found below (you can watch specific parts of the briefing as well – breakdown below).*

Please let us know if you have any questions.

William F. Crozer
Special Assistant to the President/Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
O: 202-456-8491 | C: 202-881-8545 | E: William.F.Crozer@who.eop.gov

45 Minute COVID-19 Testing Webinar

From Friday, April 17, 2020 White House Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing

[Full Video Here](#)

[Full Press Briefing Transcript Here](#)

(4 minutes) Vice President Mike Pence Initial Overview Remarks on Testing

- Topics Covered: Overview of testing
- Watch ~4 Minute Video [HERE](#)

(10 minutes) Director Anthony Fauci, M.D., National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

- Topics Covered: “40,000 foot” view of testing, types of general tests
- Watch ~10 Minute Video [HERE](#)

(5 minutes) Dr. Robert Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Topics Covered: Plan to mobilize CDC officials in all 50 states to monitor COVID-19 incidents, systems to monitor,
- Watch ~5 Minute Video [HERE](#)
- Slides: Page 2 and 3 (*see attachment*)

(11 minutes) Ambassador Debi Birx, M.D., White House Coronavirus Coordinator

- Topics Covered: Current testing capability and expansion capability, flu surveillance system available to monitor
- Watch ~11 Minute Video [HERE](#)
- Slides: Page 4 through 9 (*see attachment*)

(15 minutes) ADM Brett Giroir, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

- Topics Covered: Summarize approach to testing, ID Now testing, FDA expanding testing supply options for swabs and transport media, contact tracing, sentinel monitoring
- Watch ~15 Minute Video [HERE](#)
- Slides: Page 10 through 16 (*see attachment*)

KEY RESOURCES – CMS Increases Medicare Payment for High-Production Coronavirus Lab Tests

CMS recently announced Medicare will nearly double payment for certain lab tests that use high-throughput technologies to rapidly diagnose large numbers of COVID-19 cases. Medicare will pay

the higher payment of \$100 for COVID-19 clinical diagnostic lab tests making use of high-throughput technologies developed by the private sector that allow for increased testing capacity, faster results, and more effective means of combating the spread of the virus. High-throughput lab tests can process more than two hundred specimens a day using highly sophisticated equipment that requires specially trained technicians and more time-intensive processes to assure quality. Medicare will pay laboratories for the tests at \$100 effective April 14, 2020, through the duration of the COVID-19 national emergency. Increasing Medicare payment for these tests will help laboratories test in nursing home communities that are vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19. Additional information [here](#).

On March 30, CMS announced that Medicare **will pay new specimen collection fees for COVID-19 testing for homebound and non-hospital inpatients**, to help facilitate the testing of homebound individuals and those unable to travel. As a result of these actions, laboratories will have expanded capability to test more vulnerable populations, like nursing home patients, quickly and provide results faster. Additional information [here](#).

Leading Testing Practices from and for Our Nation's Governors

- **Gov. Doug Ducey (AZ)** [announced](#) antibody testing for 250,000 health professionals and first responders through a partnership between the state of Arizona and the University of Arizona following Federal approval.
- **Gov. Gavin Newsom (CA)** [announced](#) a new testing task force creating 5-7 high-capacity testing “hubs” through a partnership with U.C. San Diego and U.C. Davis.
- **Gov. Andy Beshear (KY)** [announced](#) a public-private testing partnership with Kroeger to expand drive-through COVID-19 with the goal of testing 20,000 people in five weeks. UPS and Gravity Diagnostics are working to provide test results in 48 hours.
- **Gov. Ron DeSantis (FL)** [announced](#) major expansions to statewide testing with the goal of opening up additional testing sites and expanding spot testing by enlisting members of the Florida National Guard to test in Florida nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- **Gov. Kim Reynolds (IA)** [worked](#) with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics to leverage further testing capacity at an academic institution. Gov. Reynolds also [announced](#) Iowa is dispatching state employees to assist in contact tracing.
- **Governor Eric Holcomb (IN)** [announced](#) additional free drive-thru testing clinics.
- **Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (MI)** [announced](#) 13 new or expanded COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites in partnership with Michigan Primary Care Association, 11 health centers, and NxGen MDX Laboratory. Additionally, Michigan is partnering with Walmart to expand drive-thru testing sites. Walmart has announced additional partnerships in 10 total states.
- **Gov. Doug Burgum (ND)** [announced](#) pilot project to expand COVID-19 testing and improve tracing to slow spread of virus.
- **Gov. Pete Ricketts (NE)** [worked](#) with the Nebraska State Health Lab in maximizing reagent by pooling multiple people's COVID-19 samples together, saving resources and time.
- **Gov. Andrew Cuomo (NY)** [signed](#) an executive order to expand antibody testing that will expand the number of people who are eligible to conduct the coronavirus antibody test.
- **Governor Mike DeWine (OH)** [worked](#) with the Ohio State University Wexler Medical Center to expand and accelerate testing creating a sterile solution to transport testing swabs (called viral transport media) that stabilizes the virus, and has worked with university engineering and dentistry departments to 3D print more than 50,000 swabs for tests.
- **Gov. Greg Abbott (TX)** [announced](#) Walgreens drive-thru testing site sites in Texas. Walgreens is operating additional sites in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Tennessee.
- **Gov. Bill (TN)** [expanded](#) testing options by establishing 15 drive-through testing sites across the State available to anyone. In addition to drive-through testing sites, Tennesseans can get a test free of charge, five days a week at every rural county health department in the state.
- **Gov. Gina Raimondo (RI), Gov. Charlie Baker (MA), Gov. Brian Kemp (GA)** have all [announced](#) a rapid COVID-19 tests partnership with CVS Health.
- **Governor Jim Justice (WV)** [ordered](#) all nursing home residents and staff statewide to be tested for COVID-19.

FEMA COVID-19 Emergency Management Best Practices

FEMA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are collecting and sharing best practices and lessons learned from the whole-of-America response to COVID-19. The best practices are intended to help medical practitioners, emergency managers, and other critical stakeholders learn from each other's approaches and apply solutions to current response and recovery operations.

The [FEMA Coronavirus Emergency Management Best Practices](#) page provides a one-stop shop to explore best practices and lessons learned across all levels of government, private sector, academic institutions, professional associations, and other organizations. HHS has a comprehensive [Novel Coronavirus Resources](#) page that highlights technical resources and information for the medical community and emergency responders. Best practices are organized around five themes:

- *Helping People*, which includes best practices on topics such as crisis counseling resources and anticipating and attending to civil rights;
- *Government Operations* best practices such as public information and continuity of operations considerations;
- *Private Sector and Infrastructure*, which includes best practices for commercial trucking and food stores;
- *Recovery Planning and Implementation*, to include the newly released FEMA Disaster Financial Management Guide and economic recovery considerations; and
- *Medical Supplies and Equipment*, including best practices for the preservation of personal protective equipment while ensuring workers are protected.

Herron, Robin

Subject: Invitation: Atlanta Track Club - Peachtree Update @ Thu Apr 23, 2020 6pm - 7pm (EDT)
(stuart.wilkinson@georgia.gov)

Location: Via Google Hangouts Link

Start: Thu 4/23/2020 6:00 PM

End: Thu 4/23/2020 7:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: rkenah@atlantatrackclub.org

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You have been invited to the following event.

Atlanta Track Club - Peachtree Update

When Thu Apr 23, 2020 6pm – 7pm Eastern Time - New York

Where Via Google Hangouts Link ([map](#))

Joining info Join Hangouts Meet

Join by phone

(PIN:)

[More phone numbers](#)

Calendar stuart.wilkinson@georgia.gov

Who

- rkenah@atlantatrackclub.org - organizer
-
-
- pjf2@cdc.gov
-
- aisha.wright@adp.com
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- lesliezacks@me.com
- jrunion@gabankers.com
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- jchally@kslaw.com
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- brian_frank@morganstanleypwm.com

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- william.k.parker@kp.org
- stuart.wilkinson@georgia.gov
- [REDACTED]
- kkirkpatrick@macoc.com
- Kara Finley (US - ASR)
- [REDACTED]

[more details »](#)

Rich to provide Board with Peachtree and other COVID-19 related updates.

Going (stuart.wilkinson@georgia.gov)? [Yes](#) - [Maybe](#) - [No](#) [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account stuart.wilkinson@georgia.gov because you are an attendee of this event.

To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively you can sign up for a Google account at <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. [Learn More](#).

Herron, Robin

From: Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO <Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO
Cc: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO;Pottebaum, Nic D.
EOP/WHO;'downing.michael.r@dol.gov'
Subject: Follow Up: Unemployment Insurance Programs Implementation

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Sending on behalf of Doug Hoelscher

Governors' Staff and State Workforce Leaders,

We wanted to share below tracker on the implementation of various unemployment programs to help support America's workers. We recognize you are diligently working to implement these important tools to help support our fellow citizens. Please continue to keep the U.S. Department of Labor informed of your progress in implementation as we recognize this is a dynamic environment with progress being made hourly.

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Digital Service (USDS) and GSA's Technology Transformations Service (TTS), stand ready to provide consultation services to states to help address state IT system issues, including IT engineering services in the areas of mainframe systems, cloud migration, site reliability engineering, and scaling. Several states have taken the Federal government up on that offer. Additionally, there are currently no reported performance issues or delays connected to the either the Interstate Connection Network (ICON) or the State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES).

In addition, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed by President Donald J. Trump on March 18, provided \$1 billion in administrative funding for state UI programs. The Act laid out the criteria each state would need to certify in order to receive the funding, which would be available in two installments. To date, 50 states and territories have certified that they met the criteria for the first installment, while 22 have certified their compliance for the second installment. To date, more than \$670 million has been provided to the states and territories.

There is also a shared goal of ensuring the money is implemented in a sound way to respect hardworking taxpayers, so we appreciate the work that States are doing to ensure program integrity that will survive audits and improper payment analyses.

Please contact Michael Downing (Downing.Michael.R@DOL.gov) at the U.S. Department of Labor or any member of the White House Intergovernmental Affairs team with any questions or updates.

Sincerely,
Doug Hoelscher
Deputy Assistant to the President &
Director, White House Intergovernmental Affairs

State/Territory	Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)	FFCRA Phase I Allotment (States Receiving Funds)	FFCRA Phase II Allotment (States Receiving Funds)
Alabama	Yes	Yes	No
Alaska	Yes	Yes	No
American Samoa	No		
Arizona	Yes	Yes	No
Arkansas	Yes	No	No
California	Yes	Yes	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	No
Connecticut	No	Yes	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes
District of Colombia	No	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	No
Guam	No		
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	No	Yes	No
Illinois	Yes	Yes	No
Indiana	Yes	Yes	No
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No	Yes	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	No
Louisiana	Yes	Yes	No
Maine	Yes	No	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	No
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	No
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nevada	Yes	Yes	No
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	No
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	Yes	No
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes

North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes
N. Mariana Islands	No		
Ohio	No	Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	No
Puerto Rico	No	Yes	No
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	No
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	No
South Dakota	Yes	Yes	No
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	No
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes
U.S. Virgin Islands	No	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes	No
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	No	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	No	Yes	No
Wyoming	Yes	No	No
Total Yes	44	50	22
Yes Percentage	79%	89%	39%

Herron, Robin

From: FEMA-IGA <FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:10 PM
Cc: FEMA-IGA
Subject: FEMA Advisory: COVID-19 Daily Briefing Points (April 21, 2020)

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FEMA ADVISORY – APRIL 21, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Whole-of-America Response

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- As of **April 20**, FEMA, HHS, and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping: 57.4 million N95 respirators, 85.3 million surgical masks, 6.4 million face shields, 12.3 million surgical gowns, 638 million gloves, 10,998 ventilators and 8,450 federal medical station beds.

- FEMA continues to expedite movement of commercially pre-sourced and commercially procured critical supplies from the global market to medical distributors in various locations across the U.S. through [Project Airbridge](#).
- On **April 17**, Vice President Pence issued a letter to the nation's governors summarizing the medical equipment and supplies that have been distributed to each state from FEMA from April 1 – 14 through Project Airbridge and the commercial supply network.
- The U.S. has now processed 4.3 million samples, which is more total tests than the following nations combined: Australia, Austria, Canada, France, India, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.
 - States should be making full use of the vast testing resources available to them, to include leveraging the full capacity available through commercial laboratories in addition to the capability provided through state laboratories.
 - HHS and FEMA have expanded items supplied by the [International Reagent Resource \(IRR\)](#) to help public health labs access free diagnostics supplies and reagents.
 - Consolidating testing supplies under the IRR simplifies the resource request process for states and territories and alleviates the burden on public health labs on needing to work with separate suppliers for swabs, reagents and other diagnostic testing supplies.
 - On **April 16**, the FDA [announced an expansion of testing options](#) through use of synthetic swabs – with a design similar to Q-tips – to test patients by collecting a sample from the front of the nose.

Contact Us

If you have any questions regarding this FEMA Advisory, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
- Private Sector Engagement at (202) 646-3444 or at nbeoc@max.gov

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To help people before, during, and after disasters.



FEMA

Herron, Robin

From: Woody Radcliffe <Woody.Radcliffe@gema.ga.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Bryson, Homer
Cc: Noggle, Caylee;Joey Greene;mark.sexton;Thomas Moore;Chuck Ray;Will Lanxton;Wilson, Richard D BG USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);LTC Louis Perino;Hovis, Scott M COL USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Laird, Julio R Col USAF 116 ACW (USA);Baffic, Stephen P Lt Col USAF 116 ACW (USA);Poole, Anthony B (Tony) COL USARMY NG GAARNG (USA);Lamar McEwen;Timothy Head;Manny Haldopoulos;Loke, Ryan;tdignam@cdc.gov;Jeff Dickerson;Parker McGee;jay.harvey@sloan.mit.edu;Ashley Larrow;Minarcine, Scott;Anna Adams;Nadeau, Kelly;BTwomey@ACCG.org
Subject: Medical Facility EEI Status Report for April 21, 2020
Attachments: Medical Facility EEI Status Report 04-21-2020.xlsx

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Director Bryson,

See the attached Medical Facility Essential Elements of Information Status Tracker Report for April 21, 2020.

Thanks to the assistance of Anna Adams at GHA and Kelly Nadeau at GDPH, all hospitals completed their data reporting by midday today.

V/R,

Woody

Woody Radcliffe
Planning Section Chief
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Herron, Robin

From: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) <IGA@messages.dhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:28 PM
To: Fleming, Tim
Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Whole-of-America Response - April 21
Attachments: ESF15_DailyBriefingPoints_20200421_FINAL.pdf

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Intergovernmental Affairs

Please see the advisory below from our partners in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding an update on the Whole-of-America response to COVID-19.

April 21, 2020

FEMA Advisory

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Herron, Robin

From: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) <IGA@messages.dhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:28 PM
To: Whitaker, Skylar
Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Whole-of-America Response - April 21
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Herron, Robin

From: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) <IGA@messages.dhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:28 PM
To: Loke, Ryan
Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Whole-of-America Response - April 21
Attachments: ESF15_DailyBriefingPoints_20200421_FINAL.pdf

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Intergovernmental Affairs

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April 21, 2020

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Herron, Robin

From: FEMA-IGA <FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:30 PM
To: FEMA-IGA
Subject: Correction - FEMA Advisory: COVID-19 Daily Briefing Points (April 21, 2020)
Attachments: FEMA_Advisory_COVID19DailyBriefingPoints_20200421.pdf; ESF15_DailyBriefingPoints_20200421 FINAL.pdf

Importance: High

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CORRECTION – Attachments included.

FEMA ADVISORY – APRIL 21, 2020

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Contact Us

If you have any questions regarding this FEMA Advisory, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
- Private Sector Engagement at (202) 646-3444 or at nbeoc@max.gov

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Herron, Robin

From: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
Cc: Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO; Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO
Subject: INVITE: State, Local, Tribal National COVID-19 Briefing Call (Wednesday, April 22, 11:30 AM Eastern Time)

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State, Local, and Tribal Leaders –

On **Wednesday, April 22, at 11:30 AM Eastern Time (note time change)**, please join Senior Administration Officials for a briefing call on COVID-19 (coronavirus). We will be joined by Senior Administration Officials from the White House, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, among others. Registration instructions are below. We ask that you

Briefing Call Registration

Date: Wednesday, April 22

Time: 11:30 AM Eastern Time (please note time zone)

Call-In Registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Note: Please note the following information regarding registration.

- Call-in lines are limited. RSVP's will be allocated in the order they are received. Please register only if you are able to join the call.
- Upon successful registration, you will be directed to a separate webpage with confirmation details and/or receive dial-in instructions to the email address you use to register. Please ensure the email address you register with is correct and check your spam/junk folder after registration. If neither action occurs, you did not successfully register.
- If you are attempting to register but cannot "submit" your information, please try again at a later time.
- Note that multiple people cannot dial-in using the same registration information. This will cause you to be kicked-off the call.

Recent Announcements

- **President Trump Announces Guidelines for Opening Up America Again!:** On Thursday, April 16, President Trump unveiled the [Guidelines for Opening Up America Again!](#) Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The criteria include showing a downward trajectory of COVID-like symptoms reported over 14 days in a given state or region, as well as a decline in documented cases or positive tests during the same 14-day window. They also set clear benchmarks on new cases,

testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. State and local officials may need to tailor the application of these criteria to local circumstances (e.g., metropolitan areas that have suffered severe COVID outbreaks, rural and suburban areas where outbreaks have not occurred or have been mild). Additionally, where appropriate, the guidelines recommend Governors working on a regional basis to satisfy outlined criteria and to progress through the tiered phases. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country. Find a Fact Sheet here: [President Donald J. Trump Is Beginning the Next Phase In Our Fight Against Coronavirus – Guidelines for Opening Up America Again.](#)

- **USDA Announces Coronavirus Food Assistance Program:** On Friday, April 17, Secretary Perdue joined President Trump in announcing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program ([CFAP](#)) to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in response to COVID-19. This \$19 billion relief program will provide \$16 billion in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers and \$3 billion in purchases of fresh produce, dairy and meat.
- **DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency Releases Revised Critical Infrastructure Workers Guidance:** On April 17, DHS CISA released version 3.0 of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers [guidance](#) to help state and local jurisdictions and the private sector identify and manage their essential workforce while responding to COVID-19. Version 3.0 provides clarity around a range of positions needed to support the critical infrastructure functions laid out in the original guidance and Version 2.0. This iteration includes a reorganization of the section around Healthcare and Public Health and more detail to clarify essential workers; emphasis for Emergency Medical Services workers; and adds lawyers and legal aid workers. Also included is language focused on sustained access and freedom of movement; a reference to the CDC guidance on safety for critical infrastructure workers; and a statement saying sick employees should avoid the workplace and the workforce. In worker categories, all references to “employees” or “contractors” have been changed to “workers.”
- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Announce New Nursing Home COVID-19 Transparency Effort:** On Sunday, April 19, CDC [announced](#) new regulatory requirements that will require nursing homes to inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. CMS will now require nursing homes to report cases of COVID-19 directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Finally, CMS will also require nursing homes to fully cooperate with CDC surveillance efforts around COVID-19 spread.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (WH IGA) will continue to share pertinent information as it becomes available. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if we can be of assistance. As a reminder, WH IGA is the primary liaison between the White House and the country’s State and local elected officials and Tribal Governments.

Thanks,
Nic

--

Nicholas D. Pottebaum
Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
O: 202-456-2132 | C: 202-881-7803 | E: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov



Download the COVID-19 App

COVID-19: Important Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Officials



- **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again:** On Thursday, April 16, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force unveiled [new guidelines](#) ([download here](#)) for the reopening of America. Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The guidelines also set clear benchmarks on new cases, testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country.
- **Coronavirus Guidelines for America:** On Tuesday, March 31, the White House announced updated [Coronavirus Guidelines for America \(Español\)](#), extending social distancing efforts through April 30. On April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued [guidance](#) recommending individuals wear cloth face coverings *in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain* (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies, particularly in areas of significant community-based transmission). On April 8, CDC also provided [guidelines](#) regarding when people in critical infrastructure roles can return to work after being exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Additional information on critical infrastructure below.
- **Up-To-Date Information:** The most up-to-date, verified information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website – www.coronavirus.gov. The Coronavirus Task Force holds frequent briefings, which can be viewed live [here](#).
- **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Primer:** Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. It is important that requests for assistance, including for critical supplies, get routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. Learn more about the response and recovery process via this important resource – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Response and Recovery Through Federal-State-Local-Tribal Partnership](#). FEMA's public assistance guidance for COVID-19 response efforts can be found [here](#). Guidance for Tribal Governments can be found [here](#).
- **Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidelines:** On March 16th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued updated [critical infrastructure guidance](#) in response to the COVID-19 emergency. DHS continues to work with stakeholders in the critical infrastructure community to update the advisory list if necessary as the Nation's response to COVID-19 evolves. The guidance, and accompanying list, is intended

to help State, local, tribal and territorial officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The list is advisory in nature and is not a federal directive or standard.

- **Rural Resource Guide:** USDA and Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses, and communities. USDA developed a [resource guide](#) for State, Local, and Tribal leaders, and other stakeholders.
- **Coronavirus Fact vs. Myth:** Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis. FEMA setup a [website](#) to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Fraud & Scam Protection:** The Department of Justice is remaining vigilant in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting wrongdoing related to the crisis. Find out how you can protect yourself and helpful resources on DOJ's Coronavirus Fraud Prevention [website](#). The Federal Trade Commission has also established a [website](#) with helpful information to help consumers avoid coronavirus-related scams.
- **Social Media Resources:** Download the [Apple COVID-19 Screening Tool](#). Follow the White House on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Also follow HHS ([Twitter/Facebook](#)) and CDC ([Twitter/Facebook](#)) You can also find informational videos from Coronavirus Task Force members on mitigation, social distancing, etc. on the White House's [YouTube](#) page.
- **Mental Health Resources:** Natural disasters – including such pandemics as the coronavirus outbreak – can be overwhelming and also can seriously affect emotional health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline – 1-800-985-5990 (or text TalkWithUs to 66746) – provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to anyone who is seeking help in coping with the mental or emotional effects caused by developments related to the coronavirus pandemic. Learn more about the Disaster Distress Helpline [here](#).
- **Addiction & Substance Abuse Resources:** The COVID-19 pandemic has created countless challenges for those delivering care to our most vulnerable populations. People with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) are especially at high risk suffering complications from COVID-19. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which leads and coordinates the development, implementation, and assessment of U.S. drug policy, released a [fact sheet](#) that contains information on Federal actions to expand telemedicine and e-prescribing, to increase flexibility for treatment with methadone and buprenorphine, to improve access to prescribed controlled substances, and to expand assistance to rural areas.
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Herron, Robin

From: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO
Cc: Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO; Campana, Ariella M. EOP/WHO
Subject: INVITE: State, Local, Tribal National COVID-19 Briefing Call (Wednesday, April 22, 11:30 AM Eastern Time)

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State, Local, and Tribal Leaders –

On **Wednesday, April 22, at 11:30 AM Eastern Time (note time change)**, please join Senior Administration Officials for a briefing call on COVID-19 (coronavirus). We will be joined by Senior Administration Officials from the White House, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, among others. Registration instructions are below. We ask that you

Briefing Call Registration

Date: Wednesday, April 22

Time: 11:30 AM Eastern Time (please note time zone)

Call-In Registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Note: Please note the following information regarding registration.

- Call-in lines are limited. RSVP's will be allocated in the order they are received. Please register only if you are able to join the call.
- Upon successful registration, you will be directed to a separate webpage with confirmation details and/or receive dial-in instructions to the email address you use to register. Please ensure the email address you register with is correct and check your spam/junk folder after registration. If neither action occurs, you did not successfully register.
- If you are attempting to register but cannot "submit" your information, please try again at a later time.
- Note that multiple people cannot dial-in using the same registration information. This will cause you to be kicked-off the call.

Recent Announcements

- **President Trump Announces Guidelines for Opening Up America Again!:** On Thursday, April 16, President Trump unveiled the [Guidelines for Opening Up America Again!](#) Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The criteria include showing a downward trajectory of COVID-like symptoms reported over 14 days in a given state or region, as well as a decline in documented cases or positive tests during the same 14-day window. They also set clear benchmarks on new cases,

testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. State and local officials may need to tailor the application of these criteria to local circumstances (e.g., metropolitan areas that have suffered severe COVID outbreaks, rural and suburban areas where outbreaks have not occurred or have been mild). Additionally, where appropriate, the guidelines recommend Governors working on a regional basis to satisfy outlined criteria and to progress through the tiered phases. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country. Find a Fact Sheet here: [President Donald J. Trump Is Beginning the Next Phase In Our Fight Against Coronavirus – Guidelines for Opening Up America Again.](#)

- **USDA Announces Coronavirus Food Assistance Program:** On Friday, April 17, Secretary Perdue joined President Trump in announcing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program ([CFAP](#)) to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in response to COVID-19. This \$19 billion relief program will provide \$16 billion in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers and \$3 billion in purchases of fresh produce, dairy and meat.
- **DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency Releases Revised Critical Infrastructure Workers Guidance:** On April 17, DHS CISA released version 3.0 of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers [guidance](#) to help state and local jurisdictions and the private sector identify and manage their essential workforce while responding to COVID-19. Version 3.0 provides clarity around a range of positions needed to support the critical infrastructure functions laid out in the original guidance and Version 2.0. This iteration includes a reorganization of the section around Healthcare and Public Health and more detail to clarify essential workers; emphasis for Emergency Medical Services workers; and adds lawyers and legal aid workers. Also included is language focused on sustained access and freedom of movement; a reference to the CDC guidance on safety for critical infrastructure workers; and a statement saying sick employees should avoid the workplace and the workforce. In worker categories, all references to “employees” or “contractors” have been changed to “workers.”
- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Announce New Nursing Home COVID-19 Transparency Effort:** On Sunday, April 19, CDC [announced](#) new regulatory requirements that will require nursing homes to inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. CMS will now require nursing homes to report cases of COVID-19 directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Finally, CMS will also require nursing homes to fully cooperate with CDC surveillance efforts around COVID-19 spread.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (WH IGA) will continue to share pertinent information as it becomes available. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if we can be of assistance. As a reminder, WH IGA is the primary liaison between the White House and the country’s State and local elected officials and Tribal Governments.

Thanks,
Nic

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Nicholas D. Pottebaum
Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
O: 202-456-2132 | C: 202-881-7803 | E: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov



Download the COVID-19 App

COVID-19: Important Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Officials



- **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again:** On Thursday, April 16, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force unveiled [new guidelines](#) ([download here](#)) for the reopening of America. Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The guidelines also set clear benchmarks on new cases, testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country.
- **Coronavirus Guidelines for America:** On Tuesday, March 31, the White House announced updated [Coronavirus Guidelines for America \(Español\)](#), extending social distancing efforts through April 30. On April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued [guidance](#) recommending individuals wear cloth face coverings *in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain* (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies, particularly in areas of significant community-based transmission). On April 8, CDC also provided [guidelines](#) regarding when people in critical infrastructure roles can return to work after being exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Additional information on critical infrastructure below.
- **Up-To-Date Information:** The most up-to-date, verified information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website – www.coronavirus.gov. The Coronavirus Task Force holds frequent briefings, which can be viewed live [here](#).
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Herron, Robin

From: Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA) <Lee.Stevens@hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA); Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA)
Subject: HHS Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in CARES Act Grants to Support Older Adults and People

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear State Partners,

We wanted to make you aware of today's release of CARES Act Grants to support older adults and people with disabilities. Today's announcement is below and state by state allotments can be found at:

<https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/about-acl/2020-04/ACL%20State%20by%20State%20Tribe%20and%20CIL%20CARES%20Supplemental%20Awards%20Tables%2004.21.20.pdf>.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Darcie

Darcie Johnston, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 853-0582

News Release

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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media@hhs.gov
www.hhs.gov/news
Twitter [@SpoxHHS](https://twitter.com/SpoxHHS)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

HHS Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in CARES Act Grants to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the Community During the COVID-19 Emergency

Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing \$955 million in grants from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to help meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities as communities implement measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The grants will fund home-delivered meals; care services in the home; respite care and other support to families and caregivers; information about and referral to supports; and more.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides supplemental funding for programs authorized by the [Older Americans Act of 1965](#) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014](#). Through these programs, a network of community-based organizations, such as Area Agencies on Aging, Centers for Independent Living, senior centers, faith-based organizations, and other non-profits provide a vast array of resources and services to help older adults and people with disabilities stay healthy and live independently in their communities across the United States.

The need for these services has increased as community measures to slow transmission of COVID-19 have closed locations where many people typically receive services and made it difficult for families to assist loved ones who live alone. In addition, the adaptations necessary to provide these services in the current environment have increased costs to service providers.

“This nearly \$1 billion in new funds will help communities support older adults and people of all ages with disabilities in staying healthy, safe, and independent during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. “The new funding secured by President Trump from Congress is a historic boost to programs that support community living for all people, representing an increase of over 40 percent in this year’s funding for ACL’s programs. The aging and disability networks supported by these programs are delivering meals, ensuring safe transitions home following hospitalizations, and providing other essential services to older Americans and Americans with disabilities during this challenging time, and HHS will continue supporting these partners and the Americans they serve throughout this crisis.”

The CARES Act funding includes:

- \$200 million for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), which will help greater numbers of older adults shelter in place to minimize their exposure to COVID-19. These include personal care assistance; help with household chores and grocery shopping; transportation to essential services (such as grocery stores, banks, or doctors) when necessary; and case management.
- \$480 million for home-delivered meals for older adults. With this funding, states can also expand “drive-through” or “grab-and-go” meals for older adults who typically would participate in meal programs at community centers and other locations that have been closed due to social distancing measures.
- \$85 million for Centers for Independent Living to provide direct and immediate support and services to individuals with disabilities who are experiencing disruptions to their independent, community-based living due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Services will ensure individuals with disabilities have the supports they need to safely stay in their homes or return home after a hospitalization or institutionalization during (and directly after) COVID-19.
- \$20 million for nutrition and related services for Native American Programs to help tribes and tribal organizations provide meals and supportive services directly to Native American elders.
- \$100 million for the National Family Caregiver Support Program to expand a range of services that help family and informal caregivers provide support for their loved ones at home. These include counseling, respite care, training, and connecting people to information.

- \$20 million to support State Long-term Care Ombudsman programs in providing consumer advocacy services for residents of long-term care facilities across the country. Restrictions on visitation have significantly increased demand for ombudsman services, as families seek assistance in ensuring the well-being of their loved ones. Ombudsman programs will seek to expand their virtual presence to residents and their families, and continue to promote the health, safety welfare, and rights of residents in the context of COVID-19. This funding will give Ombudsman programs the flexibility to hire additional staff and purchase additional technology, associated hardware, and personal protective equipment once in-person visits resume.
- \$50 million for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), which will fund programs that both connect people at greatest risk to COVID-19 to services needed to practice social distancing and seek to mitigate issues created by it, such as social isolation. ADRCs across the country are reporting unprecedented demand for assistance with applications for services, care coordination, services that support people in returning home following hospitalization, and the like.

“Area Agencies on Aging, Centers for Independent Living, and other community-based organizations are working hard to expand capacity to meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities during this extraordinary time,” said ACL Administrator Lance Robertson. “These additional funds will allow for an incredible response at the state and local level to meet the needs of people who are facing some of the greatest risks during the COVID-19 emergency.”

The majority of these additional funds (\$905 million) are being awarded today to states, territories, and tribes for subsequent allocation to local service providers. [Grant amounts](#) are determined based on the formulas defined under the program authorizing statutes. The remaining \$50 million will be awarded by the close of April.

Older adults who need assistance can contact the [Eldercare Locator](#) to find services available in their community. The Eldercare Locator can be reached at 1-800-677-1116 or <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=fc02d285-a057db96-fc02e3ba-0cc47adb5650-2eec6720e4045385&u=https://eldercare.acl.gov/>.

People with disabilities can locate their local Center for Independent Living at <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=f0571713-ac021e00-f057262c-0cc47adb5650-6149e74944f63598&u=https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory>. In addition, the Eldercare Locator can help people with disabilities find their local Aging and Disability Resource Center.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

About the Administration for Community Living

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) was created around the fundamental principle that older adults and people of all ages with disabilities should be able to live where they choose, with the people they choose, and with the ability to participate fully in their communities.

By funding services and supports provided by networks of community-based organizations, and with investments in research, education, and innovation, ACL helps make this principle a reality for millions of Americans. For more information about ACL's programs, please visit [ACL.gov](https://acl.gov).

###

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Herron, Robin

From: Fleming, Tim
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO
Subject: FW: Georgia's COVID-19 Update

Please see below.

Thanks,

Tim

From: Broce, Candice <candice.broce@georgia.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:25 PM
To: Fleming, Tim <tim.fleming@georgia.gov>
Cc: Hall, Cody <cody.hall@georgia.gov>
Subject: Georgia's COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Update (as of April 21, 2020)

19,881 cases
799 deaths
State lab: 5,733 tests
Commercial vendors: 82,407 tests

Opening Up America Again

On track to meet the gating criteria for Phase One:

- Reports of emergency room visits for flu-like illnesses declining
- Documented COVID-19 cases have flattened and appear to be declining
- Declining emergency room visits in general

Testing

For weeks now, I've expressed frustration with testing status and committed more resources to expansion

Partnered with University System of Georgia

Partnered with CVS to offer drive-thru services

Empowered public health officials to test all symptomatic individuals

Currently offer asymptomatic testing for first responders, law enforcement, healthcare workers, and residents and staff of long-term care facilities

Partnering with Augusta University Health

Telemedicine app to better coordinate testing

Visit [AugustaHealth.org](https://www.augustahealth.org), download AU Health ExpressCare, or call (706) 721-1852

Clinicians available 24/7 to screen patients and get staff to schedule tests

Go to your appointment to give specimen for testing

You'll get your results in 72 hours

If positive, physician will contact you directly

You'll get help to enroll in Google MTX app to help health officials with contact tracing

Georgia National Guard will also mobilize 10 strike teams to deploy to hotspots and long-term care facilities to do 1,500 tests per day

Elective surgeries

Urging healthcare facilities to safely resume essential elective surgeries

Reopening Georgia

Allow gyms, fitness centers, bowling alleys, body art studios, barbers, cosmetologists, hair designers, nail care artists, estheticians, their respective schools, and massage therapists to reopen this **Friday, April 24**

Minimum Basic Operations includes, but is not limited to, screening workers for fever and respiratory illness, enhancing workplace sanitation, wearing masks and gloves if appropriate, separating workspaces by at least six feet, teleworking where at all possible, and implementing staggered shifts

Theaters, private social clubs, and restaurant dine-in services can reopen on **Monday, April 27** if they follow strict social distancing and sanitation

Bars, nightclubs, operators of amusement park rides, and live performance venues will remain closed

Shelter in place order is still active and expires at 11:59 PM on April 30 for most Georgians

For medically fragile and elderly Georgians, make plans to shelter in place at least through **May 13**

Religious Services

In-person services allowed but must be done in accordance with strict social distancing; online, call-in, or drive-in services remain best options

Herron, Robin

From: Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA) <Lee.Stevens@hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:33 PM
To: Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA);Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA)
Subject: HHS COVID-19 Update, 4-21-2020

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Colleague:

Provider Relief Fund Update: As you know, the CARES Act appropriated \$100 billion to establish a Provider Relief Fund. This Fund, administered by the Secretary of HHS, is being used to distribute payments to health care entities across the country that have been affected by the coronavirus. To date, \$30 billion has been distributed generally to health care entities across the country.

HHS will soon make targeted distributions to hospitals and other facilities that have been particularly affected by the increased burden of caring for those with the coronavirus. To inform how these funds are distributed, HHS is asking all hospitals to provide the following information:

For each facility with a Medicare Tax Identification Number (TIN):

- Total number of Intensive Care Unit beds as of April 10, 2020
- Total number of admissions with a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 from January 1, 2020 to April 10, 2020
- National Provider Identifier

How will providers share the information being requested and what steps do they need to take to be considered for impact funding?

Submitters are being asked to provide this information through an authentication portal established by an HHS vendor, TeleTracking. They will be able to submit this data via data entry at an individual hospital level, entering multiple hospitals at one time, or batch upload of data of multiple hospitals via a designated individual or third party entity.

The health care provider's site administrator received an email from HHS on Sunday April 12th, or thereafter, with instructions and a link to register on this portal. If providers have not already done so, they should register on the portal as directed in the email.

This process has been created to minimize burden, and should not require more than 10 minutes. If it is not clear who within an organization received this notification, or if providers have questions about the registration process, they can contact TeleTracking Technical Support at 877-570-6903.

To help HHS continue to move provider relief funding out to providers quickly, **submitters must deliver this information by 11:59 p.m. PT, Thursday April 23.** Providers should understand that **submitting the data is a prerequisite to payment**, but is **not a guarantee of eligibility** for any amount.

Other HHS COVID-19 news is as follows.

Testing and Treatment

At-Home Test: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the first diagnostic test with a home collection option for COVID-19. Specifically, the FDA re-issued the [emergency use authorization \(EUA\) for the Laboratory Corporation of America \(LabCorp\)](#) COVID-19 RT-PCR Test to permit testing of samples self-collected by patients at home using LabCorp's Pixel by LabCorp COVID-19 Test home collection kit. This reissued EUA for LabCorp's molecular test permits testing of a sample collected from the patient's nose using a designated self-collection kit that contains nasal swabs and saline. Once patients self-swab to collect their nasal sample, they mail their sample, in an insulated package, to a LabCorp lab for testing.

Rapid Diagnostic Test: BARDA entered into a [partnership with Tangen Biosciences](#) to develop a rapid diagnostic test using technology that might help health departments monitor the pandemic more efficiently in their community and results are provided to users and integrated through a cloud-based mobile platform that could convey the identified test results to public health agencies. This could help public health departments assess the spread in the community and decrease the number of infections.

Compounding Drugs with Shortages: FDA has released a temporary policy for [compounding of certain drugs](#) for hospitalized patients by pharmacy compounders not registered as outsourcing facilities guidance for industry. Many hospitals are currently experiencing difficulties accessing FDA-approved drug products used for patients with COVID-19. As a temporary measure during the public health emergency related to COVID-19, or for such shorter time as FDA may announce by updating or withdrawing this guidance based on evolving needs and circumstances, FDA does not intend to take action against a pharmacy for compounding a drug that is essentially a copy of a commercially available drug, or for providing a drug to a hospital without obtaining a patient-specific prescription.

Reporting Clinical Trial Data: CMS is encouraging clinicians who participate in the Quality Payment Program (QPP), such as physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and others, to contribute to scientific research and evidence to fight the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. [Clinicians may now earn credit in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System \(MIPS\)](#), a performance-based track of QPP that incentivizes quality and value, for participation in a clinical trial and reporting clinical information by attesting to the new *COVID-19 Clinical Trials* improvement activity. This action will provide vital data to help drive improvement in patient care and develop innovative best practices to manage the spread of COVID-19 within communities.

Treatment Guidelines: NIH developed [Treatment Guidelines](#) to inform clinicians how to care for patients with COVID-19. The recommendations in these Guidelines are based on scientific evidence and expert opinion. Each recommendation includes two ratings: a letter (A, B, or C) that indicates the strength of the recommendation and a Roman numeral (I, II, or III) that indicates the quality of the evidence that supports the recommendation.

Treatment Acceleration Program: FDA launched the [Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program \(CTAP\)](#) to speed approval of drugs and therapies. To date, 72 therapies are now being tested and another 211 are in active planning for clinical trials. Commissioner Hahn [posted a blog](#) about the program and notes that the program uses every available method to move new treatments to patients as quickly as possible, while at the same time finding out whether the treatments are helpful or harmful.

Diagnostics Update to Date: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has worked with more than 340 test developers who have said they will be submitting emergency use authorization (EUA) requests to FDA for tests that detect the virus. To date, the FDA has issued 41 individual [emergency use authorizations](#) for test kit manufacturers and laboratories. In addition, 16 authorized tests have been added to the EUA letter of authorization for high complexity molecular-based laboratory developed tests (LDTs). The FDA has been notified that more than 210 laboratories have begun testing under the policies set forth in our COVID-19 Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019 during the Public Health Emergency Guidance. The FDA also continues to keep its [COVID-19 Diagnostics FAQ](#) up to date.

PPE and Supplies

Expanding Ventilator Capacity: On April 20, President Trump launched the Dynamic Ventilator Reserve Program, an innovative public-private partnership to access up to 65,000 additional ventilators in hospitals across the country that can be redeployed when not in use.

Update on Face Masks: The FDA issued a [face mask emergency use authorization \(EUA\)](#) in response to concerns relating to insufficient supply and availability of face masks for use by members of the general public, including health care personnel in healthcare settings as personal protective equipment (PPE), to cover their noses and mouths, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, to prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the pandemic. Manufacturers of face masks that are used as described in the EUA and meet the requirements in the EUA, do not need to take any action, other than complying with the Conditions of Authorization in the EUA, to be authorized under this EUA.

Funding, Resources and Toolkits

Nearly \$1 Billion in COVID-19 Services and Supports for Older Adults and People with Disabilities: HHS announced [nearly \\$1 Billion in CARES Act](#) funding to states, Tribes and community-based organizations to help meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities as communities implement measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The grants will fund home-delivered meals; care services in the home; respite care and other support to families and caregivers; information about and referral to supports; and more. The majority of these additional funds (\$905 million) are being awarded today to states, territories, and tribes for subsequent allocation to local service providers. Grant amounts are determined based on the formulas defined under the program authorizing statutes.

Funding for Tribes: Through the CARES Act, HRSA received [\\$15M to allocate to tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, and health service providers to tribes](#). The funding will provide support for the Tribes to prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19 in rural communities. The Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found [here](#) and applications are due May 6, 2020.

Resources for Human Services Leaders: [The Administration on Children and Families created a resource](#) that is geared towards state leaders and is intended to provide current mandatory program flexibilities, guidance and resources in ACF programs, as well as information on other federal programs that serve vulnerable children and families. Information will be updated periodically.

Toolkit on Healthcare Workforce: The Technical Resource Assistance Center posted the COVID-19 [workforce virtual toolkits](#). This toolkit includes resources and tools for decision-makers managing healthcare workforce challenges in response to COVID-19 emergency. Additionally, information on federal regulatory and funding flexibility, healthcare workforce training, liability protection, scope of practice, and workforce protection is also included on the site.

Toolkit on Alternative Care Sites: HHS released this [Toolkit and guidance](#) to help state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) entities address potential capacity and capability gaps in healthcare systems during the 2020 SARS-CoV2 virus (COVID-19) pandemic. It is intended to provide guidance and technical assistance to SLTT entities in establishing and operationalizing Alternate Care Sites (ACS) used to care for COVID-19-positive or presumed positive patients. If an ACS is used to treat non-COVID-19 patients, additional considerations will apply.

Waivers and Flexibilities:

CMS Waiver Flexibility: CMS has [approved 53 COVID-related emergency waivers](#), 39 state amendments, 16 COVID-related Medicaid Disaster Amendments and one CHIP COVID-related Disaster Amendment. States are using a toolkit CMS developed to expedite the application and approval of Medicaid state waivers and State Plan Amendments.

Rural Health Clinic and Federally-Qualified Health Center Flexibilities: CMS released information for [RHCs and FQHCs on Telehealth and Virtual Communications Flexibilities](#) During COVID-19. To support RHCs and FQHCs and their patients, Congress and CMS made changes to requirements and payments during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, including: New payment for telehealth services, including how to bill Medicare; Expansion of virtual communication services; Revision of home health agency shortage requirement for visiting nursing services; Consent for care management and virtual communication services; and Accelerated/advance payments.

Extension on the Interoperability and Patient Access Final Rule: Today, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in conjunction with the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced a [policy of enforcement discretion](#) to allow compliance flexibilities regarding the implementation of the interoperability final rules announced on March 9th in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health emergency. ONC will exercise enforcement discretion for 3 months at the end of certain ONC Health IT Certification Program compliance dates associated with the ONC Cures Act Final Rule. CMS will provide hospitals an additional 6 months to implement the new requirements.

Information for Specific Populations

Extension of an Order to Suspend Certain Individuals into the US: CDC announced an [extension of an Order](#) issued March 20, 2020 under Sections 362 and 365 of the Public Health Service Act, and associated implementing regulations, that suspends the introduction of certain persons from countries where an outbreak of a communicable disease exists. The Order shall continue in operation for an additional 30 days.

Guidance for Childcare Programs: CDC updated their [guidance for childcare programs](#) that remain open. The updates include additional options for screening children upon arrival to ensure that children who have a fever or other signs of illness are not admitted to the facility and noting that the additional options may be useful when personal protective equipment (PPE) is in short supply.

Safety Practices for Workers Exposed to a Person with COVID-19: CDC updated their guidance on [implementing safety practices for critical infrastructure workers who may have had exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19](#). To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, CDC advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community. Critical Infrastructure workers who have had an exposure but remain asymptomatic should adhere to outlined practices prior to and during their work shift.

Aligning Federal Agency Operations with Opening Up America Guidelines: The White House released a document on [aligning federal agency operations with the national guidelines for opening up America again](#). In partnership with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and the private sector, the Federal government is actively planning to ramp back up government operations to the maximum extent possible, as local conditions warrant, consistent with the National guidelines for Opening Up America Again.

Information for Laboratories: CDC updated their [information for laboratories](#). This page includes interim guidance and resources for laboratory professionals working with specimens from persons under investigation (PUI) for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Information for Institutes of Higher Education: CDC updated their [guidance for institutes of higher education](#). The updates now include a decision-tree for school closures.

Updated Information for Homeless Shelters: CDC released additional information on [screening clients at homeless shelters](#). The following is a screening tool that can be used to identify people with symptoms that indicate they might have a respiratory infection. Although not every person who has respiratory infection symptoms will have coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), using a tool may be helpful in identifying people who may need medical care.

Report on Effect of Cleaning and Disinfectant Chemicals and COVID-19: CDC published a report, [Cleaning and Disinfectant Chemical Exposures and Temporal Associations with COVID-19 — National Poison Data System, United States, January 1, 2020–March 31, 2020](#). This report describes a temporal association between COVID-19 cleaning recommendations—from public health agencies and the media—and an increase in reports related to cleaners and disinfectants reported to the National Poison Data System (NPDS).

Thank you for all of your work in so many aspects of the COVID-19 fight. Most of all, we thank our healthcare workers. If you have questions, email Darcie.Johnston@hhs.gov.

Laura

Laura C. Trueman
Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington D.C. 20201

Herron, Robin

From: Latcham, Alexander S. EOP/WHO <Alexander.S.Latcham@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:38 AM
To: Latcham, Alexander S. EOP/WHO
Subject: 04/21 COVID-19 Update

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening-

President Trump continues to lead a whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 epidemic. Please see the below resources detailing the latest Trump Administration's actions.

Tomorrow, the President and the First Lady participate in a tree planting ceremony in recognition of Earth Day and Arbor Day at 12:00pm ET. Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press briefing at 5:00pm ET.

Additional Guidance (as of 4.21, 5:30pm):

- **WH** - Memorandum on Providing Continued Federal Support for Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Facilitate Economic Recovery ([Click here](#))
- **WH** With Excess National Supply, Exchanges Will Allow U.S. Hospitals to Continue Meeting Ventilator Demand ([Click here](#))
- **HHS** - Oracle Donates Therapeutic Learning System to HHS to Gather Crowd-Sourced Data on COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **HHS** - SAMHSA Moves Quickly to Begin Releasing \$110 Million in Emergency Grant Funding to Provide Americans with Substance Use Treatment and Mental Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic ([Click here](#))
- **HHS** - HHS Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in CARES Act Grants to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the Community During the COVID-19 Emergency ([Click here](#))
- **HHS** - Statements from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Interoperability Flexibilities amid the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ([Click here](#))
- **CMS** - Trump Administration Champions Reporting of COVID-19 Clinical Trial Data through Quality Payment Program, Announces New Clinical Trials Improvement Activity ([Click here](#))
- **CMS** - April 21 News Alert ([Click here](#))
- **CMS** - Statements from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Interoperability Flexibilities amid the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - April 20 Daily Roundup ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - The Path Forward: Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - FDA Authorizes First Test for Patient At-Home Sample Collection ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - FDA Provides Flexibility to the Food Industry to Support Food Supply Chain and Meet Consumer Demand During COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **NIH** - Expert U.S. panel develops NIH treatment guidelines for COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **DHS-FEMA** - FEMA Programs Helping People from Coast to Coast ([Click here](#))
- **Treasury** - Action Needed for Social Security Recipients with Dependents Who Do Not File Tax Returns to Receive \$500 Per Child Payment ([Click here](#))

- **Treasury** - Treasury Finalizes Agreements with Major Airlines, Disburses Initial Payroll Support Program Payments ([Click here](#))
- **Treasury** - Treasury, IRS announce cross-border tax guidance related to travel disruptions arising from the COVID-19 emergency ([Click here](#))
- **USDA** - Kentucky, Missouri, and Texas Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program ([Click here](#))
- **ED** - Secretary DeVos Delivers \$6 Billion in Additional Grant Funding to Support Continued Education at America's Colleges, Universities ([Click here](#))
- **HUD** - HUD Awards \$1.5 Million in Funding to Support COVID-19 Related Fair Housing Activities ([Click here](#))
- **DOL** - U.S. Department of Labor Ends Temporary Non-Enforcement of Paid Leave Protections to Help American Workers During Coronavirus Pandemic ([Click here](#))
- **DOD** - Hospital Ship USNS Comfort Admits New Jersey Patients ([Click here](#))
- **DOD** - DOD Details \$133 Million Defense Production Act Title 3 COVID-19 Project ([Click here](#))
- **VA** - VA acquires Texas community hospital to fight COVID-19 and care for Veterans in the future ([Click here](#))
- **VA** - VA, DoD implement new capability for bidirectional sharing of health records with community partners ([Click here](#))
- **VA** - VA's telehealth system grows as Veterans have access to unlimited data while using VA Video Connect ([Click here](#))
- **VA** - Timeline on how VA prepared for COVID-19 outbreak and continues to keep Veterans safe ([Click here](#))
- **VA** - VA researchers to study COVID-19 in aging Veterans with dementia ([Click here](#))
- **State** - The United States Is Assisting Pacific Island Countries To Respond to COVID-19 ([Click here](#))

Alex Latham
Special Assistant to the President
White House Office of Political Affairs

HIGHLIGHTS | President Trump and the Coronavirus Task Force Provide an Update to Americans

SUSPENDING IMMIGRATION TO PROTECT AMERICAN WORKERS

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "In order to protect American workers, I will be issuing a temporary suspension of immigration into the United States."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "By pausing immigration, we'll help put unemployed Americans first in line for jobs as America reopens. So important. It would be wrong and unjust for Americans laid off by the virus to be replaced with new immigrant labor flown in from abroad."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "This pause will be in effect for 60 days, after which the need for any extension or modification will be evaluated by myself and a group of people, based on economic conditions at the time."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "This order will only apply to individuals seeking a permanent residency, in other words, those receiving green cards. Big factor. Will not apply to those entering on a temporary basis."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "This pause on new immigration will also help to conserve vital medical resources to American citizens. A short break from new immigration, depending on the time we're

talking about, will protect the solvency of our healthcare system and provide relief to jobless Americans.”

NEW CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDING

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “My administration has worked aggressively with Congress to negotiate this critical \$482 billion funding package. We reached a deal that includes \$382 billion in crucial small business support to keep workers on the payroll, \$75 billion to aid hospitals, which really need the aid, and very badly. I’m very proud of that. And \$25 billion to support coronavirus testing efforts.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “I urged the House to pass the bill and they are going to be voting on it, I imagine, very, very soon.”

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: “This also gives us \$50 billion dollars for disaster loans – EIDL loans – that will allow the SBA to make \$300 billion dollars of disaster loans all for small businesses.”

SEC. MNUCHIN: “I can tell you the [Paycheck Protection Program] so far is over 30 million jobs. And, and again, that doesn’t account for other money that we’ve sent out.”

CERTIFICATION FOR PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “When I saw Harvard, they have a one of the largest endowments anywhere in the country, maybe in the world, I guess. They’re going to pay back that money.”

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: “I will comment there have been some big businesses that have taken [Paycheck Protection Program] loans. I was pleased to see that Shake Shack returned the money. We will be putting out some F.A.Q.s”

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: “Certain people on the [Paycheck Protection Program] may have not been clear in understanding the certification. So, we will give people the benefit of the doubt. We’re going to put an F.A.Q. out – explain this certification. If you pay back the loan right away, you won’t have liability to the SBA and to Treasury. But, there are severe consequences for people who don’t attest properly to this certification.”

GUIDELINES ON OPENING UP AMERICA

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “Thanks to our aggressive campaign against the virus and the extraordinary talent of our medical professionals, our mortality rate remains roughly half of that of many other countries and one of the lowest of any country in the world.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “Since we announced our guidelines on opening up America ... 20 states, representing 40% of the U.S. population, have announced they’re making plans and preparations to safely restart their economies in the very near future.”

DR. DEBORAH BIRX: “So, we really want to call people’s attention, again, to the guidelines. We are continuing to see outbreaks in nursing homes and in confined spaces, and I think as Americans we want to stop that, and we have the ability to do that by really paying attention to the guidelines that were to be in all three phases.”

VENTILATORS

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "Today, Vice President Pence visited the hard working men and women of General Electric Healthcare in Madison, Wisconsin, who are working three shifts a day to quadruple their production of ventilators."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "GE is also working with Ford to make 50,000 ventilators in the next 100 days, more than our entire country typically produces in a very long period of time."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "I said from the beginning that no American who needs a ventilator would be denied a ventilator and we have kept that promise all over the United States."

WORKING WITH NEW YORK

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "Earlier today, I had a very productive meeting with Governor Cuomo, as you probably saw, to discuss his statewide testing strategy and how we can work together to help expand it with the goal of doubling testing in the next few weeks."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "New York State will be continuing to control the testing of their citizens and will also manage their state and local laboratories."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "The Federal government will work along with the state on the national manufacturers and distributors. Together, we'll all work together to help them secure additional tests and we hope that this model will work with the other states as well."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "I've asked Andrew if we could bring the Comfort back to its base in Virginia so that we can have it for other locations, and he said we would be able to do that."

UPDATE ON TESTING

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "The FDA has now authorized more than 50 diagnostic tests including, as of late last night, the first test that a patient can take home ... LabCorp intends to make the home collection kits available to consumers in most states with a doctor's order."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "In the coming weeks, we also have four different antibody tests already authorized. Tests will help identify individuals who can donate convalescent plasma, thus providing potentially life-saving antibodies to American patients."

FDA COMMISSIONER HAHN: "The antibody tests are just one piece of the larger response that you've heard in the America returning to work plan that the President has -- with the task force -- has developed."

FDA COMMISSIONER HAHN: "We've authorized four applications for antibody tests and 140 test developers are pursuing applications for us as we speak."

PHASE FOUR LEGISLATION

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We mentioned briefly the state aid. We talked about that, Governor Cuomo and myself, and I agree with him on that, and I think most Republicans agree too, and Democrats. And that's part of phase four."

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: "I very much appreciate the President's support for phase four. He put out a Tweet. As the President said, we look forward to phase four would be infrastructure ... roads, bridges, broadband -- especially broadband now to rural America is very important. We've talked about incentives for restaurants, sports, entertainment, because these businesses have been impacted. The President has talked multiple times about a payroll tax cut. And we've also -- we are talking

about in the case of states, the states we have heard from the governors and the fiscal issues of the state.”

###

Herron, Robin

From: Smith, Lorri
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA)
Subject: FW: Daily COVID-19 Listing - Long Term Care Facilities
Attachments: HFRD COVID-19 Report FULL 4.21.20.xls; HFRD COVID-19 Report Posted 4.21.20.pdf

Good morning!

Attached is the document referenced during the call today with U.S. Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan. We would be glad to circle up and discuss lessons learned and future mitigations efforts we are considering.

Hope you all have a wonderful day! Keep up the great work!

Thanks,
Lorri

Lorri Smith
Chief Operating Officer
Office of the Governor Brian P. Kemp
lorri.smith@georgia.gov | 678-346-5446



From: Simon, Melanie <msimon@dch.ga.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Drenzek, Cherie <Cherie.Drenzek@dph.ga.gov>; Smith, Lorri <lorri.smith@georgia.gov>; Berry, Frank <frank.berry@dch.ga.gov>; Thomas Carden <thomas.m.carden.mil@mail.mil>; Carlson, Russell <rcarlson@ghca.info>; Bryson, Homer <Homer.Bryson@gema.ga.gov>; Hannah Byers <hbyers@ghca.info>
Cc: Loke, Ryan <ryan.loke@georgia.gov>; Noggle, Caylee <caylee.noggle@georgia.gov>; Broce, Candice <candice.broce@georgia.gov>; Toomey, Kathleen <kathleen.toomey@dph.ga.gov>; Benoit, Alexandra <alexandra.benoit@dph.ga.gov>; Strong, Charles <charles.strong@dch.ga.gov>; Ellis, Marial <maellis@dch.ga.gov>; Hood, Joseph <joseph.hood@dch.ga.gov>; Wortley, Pascale <Pascale.Wortley@dph.ga.gov>
Subject: Daily COVID-19 Listing - Long Term Care Facilities

Good afternoon,

Attached is the daily report of COVID-19 outbreak statistics for long term care facilities. The pdf version will be posted on the website by 7 pm this evening.

Today's count is 262 facilities with one or more COVID-19 positive residents and/or staff.

Additional statistics: 2,048 COVID-19 Positive Residents
 317 Resident Deaths
 1,036 COVID-19 Positive Staff

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Melanie

Melanie Simon
Executive Director, Healthcare Facility Regulation
Georgia Department of Community Health
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To schedule meetings, please contact Renee Peoples at renee.peoples@dch.ga.gov.

Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/gadch> and Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/gadept/communityhealth>.

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Herron, Robin

From: Urban, Lori (HHS/IEA) <Lori.Urban@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:25 AM
To: Loke, Ryan
Subject: Contact Tracing for HHS

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Ryan -

Darcie has asked that I collect the follow data.....

In order to help with contact tracing and COVID-19 numbers -

We are collecting data on your opening plans, for your state?

- A. What is your plan for potential increased need for contact tracing?
 - a. What is your current strategy for conducting contact tracing?
 - b. How many contact tracers did you have prior to COVID-19?
 - i. Do you currently have now and how is this pool staffed?
 - ii. How many contact tracers will you need to implement your plan?
 - c. What is your definition of a close contact?
 - d. Do you utilize digital application tools in your contact tracing?
 - iii. If yes, what type and where is it in use?
 - e. Do you need technical support for digital application tools?
 - f. Do you currently have a data collection and transmission method identified?
 - iv. If yes, please provide the details.
 - g. What additional resources are needed to increase contact tracing in your state/territory?

Next, we'd like to ask about surveillance and testing efforts to address the needs of vulnerable populations:

- A. What is your current strategy to monitor surveillance and implement any proactive testing in:
 - I. Nursing homes/long-term care sites – symptomatic and asymptomatic
 - II. FQHCs
 - III. IHS sites
 - IV. Others?
- A. What additional resources are needed to enhance surveillance and increase testing for vulnerable populations in your state/territory?

Finally, do you have any other pressing needs that will assist you in opening and keeping open your state?

Many Thanks!

- Lori

Lori Urban
Senior Advisor, Office of InterGovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
202-578-3498 Lori.Urban@HHS.gov

Herron, Robin

From: Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA) <Lee.Stevens@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:15 AM
To: Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA); Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA)
Subject: HHS Awards Nearly \$165 Million to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic in Rural Communities/ HRSA Launches New Telehealth website

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Dear State Partners,

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded nearly \$165 million to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in rural communities.

"Today's funding gives rural hospitals critical support to build up their capacity for fighting COVID-19 in their communities, including through further expansions of telehealth, more purchases of PPE, and boosting testing capacity," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "This funding, secured by President Trump from Congress, will build on the historic expansion of telehealth undertaken by the Trump Administration to help all Americans access the care they need during the pandemic."

Recipients and award amounts can be found below and at: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/coronavirus-cares-fy2020-awards>

To read the full press release, visit: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/22/hhs-awards-nearly-165-million-to-combat-covid19-pandemic-in-rural-communities.html>

Additionally, today HRSA launched a new telehealth website, to assist patients and providers navigate the telehealth landscape, particularly as use increase in this pandemic: <http://telehealth.hhs.gov/>

FY 2020 CARES Act Awards

Telehealth Resource Centers

Organization	State	A
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Inc.	Alaska	\$
University of Arizona	Arizona	\$
University of Arkansas System	Arkansas	\$
California Telehealth Network	California	\$
Public Health Institute	California	\$

Georgia Partnership for Telehealth, Inc.	Georgia	\$
University of Hawaii Systems	Hawaii	\$
Indiana Rural Health Association	Indiana	\$
University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc.	Kansas	\$
Medical Care Development, Inc.	Maine	\$
Regents of the University of Minnesota	Minnesota	\$
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Texas	\$
University of Utah	Utah	\$
Rector & Visitors of the University of Virginia	Virginia	\$

Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program

Organization	State
Alabama State Department of Public Health	Alabama
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services	Alaska
University of Arizona	Arizona
Arkansas Department of Health	Arkansas
Department of Health Care Services	California
Colorado Rural Health Center	Colorado
Florida Department of Health	Florida
Georgia Department of Community Health	Georgia
Hawaii Department of Health	Hawaii
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare	Idaho
Illinois Department of Public Health	Illinois
Indiana State Department of Health	Indiana
Iowa Department of Public Health	Iowa

Kansas Department of Health and Environment	Kansas
University of Kentucky	Kentucky
Louisiana Department of Health	Louisiana
Maine Department of Health And Human Services	Maine
Maryland Department of Public Health	Maryland
Massachusetts Dept of Public Health	Massachusetts
Michigan Center for Rural Health	Michigan
Minnesota Department of Health	Minnesota
Mississippi State Department of Health	Mississippi
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services	Missouri
Montana State University, Inc	Montana
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	Nebraska
Nevada System of Higher Education	Nevada
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	New Hampshire
New Mexico Department of Health	New Mexico
Health Research, Inc.	New York
North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services	North Carolina
University of North Dakota	North Dakota
Ohio Department of Health	Ohio
Oklahoma State University	Oklahoma
Oregon Health & Science University	Oregon
The Pennsylvania State University	Pennsylvania
South Carolina Office of Rural Health	South Carolina
South Dakota Department of Health	South Dakota

Tennessee Department of Health	Tennessee
Texas Department of Agriculture	Texas
Utah Department of Public Health	Utah
Vermont Agency of Human Services	Vermont
Virginia Department of Health	Virginia
Washington State Department of Public Health	Washington
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources	West Virginia
University of Wisconsin System	Wisconsin
Wyoming Department of Health	Wyoming

Darcie Johnston, Director
 Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 (202) 853-0582

Herron, Robin

From: Loke, Ryan
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Urban, Lori (HHS/IEA);Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA);Noggle, Caylee
Subject: Re: Contact Tracing for HHS

Lori - Per your request, see below. Let me know if you have any follow up questions.

- A. What is your plan for potential increased need for contact tracing?
- We are preparing to significantly ramp up contact tracing efforts in the state and district public health offices. We are in the process of partnering with our state's MPH programs, and medical students to be trained as contact tracers who will be assigned to teams at our district offices. We are also reassigning staff internally to be trained in contact tracing. We have also engaged a Google application to leverage technology and assist in tracking contacts and their symptoms.
- a. What is your current strategy for conducting contact tracing?
- Cases are interviewed and data are updated in SENDSS. Contacts are identified during interview and are entered into SENDSS.
 - The case data (and contacts) are transferred to the Google application during the interview. Records are created for the case and any contacts identified during the interview.
 - Case receives a text with link to update personal information and add/remove/update their contacts.
 - Contacts receive a link to update personal information and accept privacy statement, or ability to opt out. Contacts receive information about required quarantine, including the state's administrative order, and what to do if they're sick.
 - Contacts who do not engage are called and manually updated in Google by DPH staff.
 - Contact can also begin monitoring through the public facing portal.
 - Contacts report symptoms daily; they are called if they do not report within a defined time period. If they are symptomatic they are taken to a report form to enter symptoms. They are directed to seek care if needed, or are directed to the testing request and scheduling system.
- b. How many contact tracers did you have prior to COVID-19?
- Prior to COVID-19 we did not have staff specifically designated to be contact tracers, however we have epidemiologists located in each of the 18 public health districts. Since the beginning of the response, local districts have pulled in staff from nursing, environmental health, communicable disease specialist, HIV prevention staff and many others to help support their case investigations and contact tracing efforts.
- i. Do you currently have now and how is this pool staffed?
- We are currently building teams with each of the 18 public health districts. We have determined that 4-7 individuals per 100,000 population would be appropriate depending upon the case volume in the districts. Staff are being pooled from within the current public health districts, through university systems and with assistance from GEMA.
- ii.
- iii. How many contact tracers will you need to implement your plan?
- We are seeking to have 7 contact tracers per 100,000 population, in accordance with recommendations from John Hopkins. This would total 743 across the state.
- c. What is your definition of a close contact?
- We follow CDC guidance for close contacts- which are individuals who are within 6 feet of a known positive for 10 minutes or more. Tracking back to 48 hours before symptoms develop.
- d. Do you utilize digital application tools in your contact tracing?
- Yes, we use our homegrown system (SENDSS) and are in the process of leveraging technology through a Google application to assist in symptom tracking of contacts.
- iii. If yes, what type and where is it in use?

- SENDSS has been in use for many years in contact tracing for measles, HIV, etc. The Google application will be deployed in the coming days.
- Do you need technical support for digital application tools?
 - Not at the moment.
- Do you currently have a data collection and transmission method identified?
 - Yes
- If yes, please provide the details.
 - Yes, SENDSS and the Google application previously mentioned.
- What additional resources are needed to increase contact tracing in your state/territory?
 - Human resources—staff to be trained on contact tracing and necessary technology (phone and laptop).

Next, we'd like to ask about surveillance and testing efforts to address the needs of vulnerable populations:

- A. What is your current strategy to monitor surveillance and implement any proactive testing in:
- Nursing homes/long-term care sites – symptomatic and asymptomatic
 - FQHCs
 - IHS sites
 - Others?
 - This has been our priority locations to track outbreaks and do contact tracing throughout the pandemic response. Congregate care settings, including prisons were also priorities.
 - What additional resources are needed to enhance surveillance and increase testing for vulnerable populations in your state/territory?
 - Consistent and reliable access to specimen collection kits and lab capacity. Human resources, including clinical staff to collect specimens. Adequate access to PPE.

Finally, do you have any other pressing needs that will assist you in opening and keeping open your state?

From: Urban, Lori (HHS/IEA) <Lori.Urban@hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:25 AM

To: Loke, Ryan <ryan.loke@georgia.gov>

Subject: Contact Tracing for HHS

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Ryan -

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Many Thanks!

- Lori

Lori Urban
Senior Advisor, Office of InterGovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
202-578-3498 Lori.Urban@HHS.gov

Herron, Robin

From: Loke, Ryan
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Urban, Lori (HHS/IEA);Noggle, Caylee;Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA)
Subject: Re: Contact Tracing for HHS
Attachments: Contact Tracing Responses - Georgia.docx

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Per your request, see attachment document and responses from the Georgia Department of Public Health in red. There will be more details that we will flesh out over the coming days as our partnership for increased testing capacity with our medical school (AU health) comes online and our partnership for contact tracing with Google/MTX is launched.

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Herron, Robin

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Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Loke, Ryan; Urban, Lori (HHS/IEA); Noggle, Caylee
Subject: RE: Contact Tracing for HHS

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Hi Ryan and Caylee-
Great job! Thank you for your quick and detailed response. Darcie

Darcie L. Johnston
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Secretary
202-690-1058 (office)
202-853-0582 (cell)

From: Loke, Ryan <ryan.loke@georgia.gov>
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Many Thanks!

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Lori Urban

Senior Advisor, Office of InterGovernmental Affairs

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Herron, Robin

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Herron, Robin

From: Noggle, Caylee
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:02 PM
To: Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA)
Subject: RE: Contact Tracing for HHS

Thanks Darcie –

Please feel free to keep my contact info on file in case you ever need anything.

Caylee Noggle
Chief Management Officer
Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp
caylee.noggle@georgia.gov | 770-314-8548



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