

March 17, 2020

Subject: The Value of Independent Testing Laboratories Addressing COVID-19

To Local Health Officials in the US:

I write today on behalf of the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) thanking you for the leadership and expertise you are providing in the fight against the spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in the United States. As necessary containment measures are implemented by governments at all levels, we want to highlight the critically important roles that both public and private sector testing laboratories will have in ensuring and enabling important diagnostics to determine public health priorities.

ACIL is an association representing independent commercial scientific and engineering firms with over 1,000 facilities across the U.S. engaged in testing, product certification, consulting, and research and development to enhance public health and safety.

Such contributions of organizations involved in public health diagnostics and protection are especially critical during times of potential public health risks. Testing laboratories' continued operations are essential to the continuity of all aspects of food, environmental, and product safety, along with public health. Therefore, trained personnel from testing labs will likely need access to some areas that have been closed to the general public. These essential businesses and public health institutions will undoubtedly be a major factor in solving this public health crisis.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to your response and please do not hesitate to call upon me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Richard Bright
Chief Operating Officer