Date: May 14, 2020

To: Governors

From: Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D.
Assistant Secretary for Health
Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: State Testing Plans and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

On April 24, 2020, the President signed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, 2020. The supplemental contains $320 billion in funding, of which $10.25 billion is specifically directed for states, localities, and territories to develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID-19 tests, conduct surveillance, trace contacts and related activities. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with guidance so you can begin drafting your state’s testing plan as soon as possible. We fully understand that the testing plan will evolve as the trajectory of the pandemic changes over time, along with the gradual transition from full mitigation.

HHS is committed to helping ensure jurisdictions have adequate resources for an appropriate response. The continued support for and expansion of critical public health activities at the state, local, and territorial levels are essential to meet the needs in this evolving response. HHS will be providing funds to your state’s health department before May 23, 2020, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) existing Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity cooperative agreement. We will also establish a process for review and feedback, both in response to the initial plans, but on an ongoing basis to meet the needs of each state and the nation as a whole.

Each Governor or designee shall submit to HHS its plan for COVID-19 testing, including goals for the remainder of calendar year 2020. Plans must align with the Opening Up America Again Guidelines (https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/).

Attached is the reporting template. Please note:

- Projections for May and June 2020 must be submitted to CDC by May 30, 2020
- Projections for July through December 2020 must be submitted to CDC by June 15, 2020

CDC will provide additional submission guidance through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity award process.