

# Testing Update

CA COVID 19 Testing Task Force  
7-22-20

# Objectives

- **Current Testing Issues in California**
- **Testing Capacity**
- **Barriers to utilizing capacity**
- **Additional challenges**
- **Short and Long Term Solutions**
- **Facility assistance**

# Current COVID Issues

- COVID 19 Cases increased nationwide
- Simultaneously other states scaled COVID 19 testing
  
- New COVID-19 constraints for California
  - Previous testing 80,000-90,000/ day
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> -- 127,000 tests
  - Now consistently  $\geq$ 120K
  
- Resulting in increased:
  - Scheduling times
  - Number of specimens received at the labs
  - Turnaround times
  
- Impacts
  - Timely clinical care
  - Contact Tracing
  - Epidemic Control

# Meeting with Stakeholders (7-3-20)

- **Experience on the ground-**
  - Supplies for testing were being held back from labs
    - To limit the number of tests coming in for processing each day
- **Resulting in test sites closing**
- **Laboratories still had available capacity to test**
  - $\geq 400$  total (high and medium throughput)
    - Perform 66K in an 8 hour period.
    - **Total capacity 190-200 tests (If labs run 24 hours )**

# Solution

- **Matchmake --TTF Lab List** – (labs meet CDPH LFS criteria)
  - Licensure-- Federal CLIA certified and California state licensed
  - FDA EUA approval
  - Reporting to CalREDIE
  - Registered with Laboratory Field Services
    - Willing to contract for more testing
- Learned new issues
  - Most organizations contracted with 2-3 major labs
  - Those labs using similar testing instruments
  - Those instruments having supply issues with reagents and plastics trays pipette tips
- Contract hardwired
- Larger labs subcontract with smaller labs

# High Level Meeting (7-10-20)

- **Labs willing to sub contract**
    - **Initial processing- very long if by hand**
    - **Electronic Registration**
    - **No Mark Up clause- TTF is working to address this**
  - **Larger labs could have capacity to further expand**
    - **Workforce shortage**
      - Require Executive Order- (April 2020)
        - Waived CA state regulatory personnel requirements for the duration of the emergency
          - Based on federal CMS CLIA personnel requirements– not yet lowered
  - **Testing prioritization guidance to decrease unnecessary testing**
    - Released 7-14-20
    - Tier 1- Hospitalized, PH Outbreak Investigation
    - Tier Two- live, work stay congregate setting, hospital admission and d/c to congregate setting
- **Results Transmission**
- **Ongoing weekly meeting for trouble shoot**

# Additional Strategies

- **CA State- Manufacture own supplies for long term solutions**
  - Reagents and plastics many currently FDA approved
    - Proprietary FDA EUS
- **Develop own test platforms**
  - Solidified deal with historic CDPH contractor
  - New platforms
  - FDA EUA compatible for multiple existing platforms
- **New deal being solidified with Transport Media Company that is local to CA**
- **Pooling tests**
  - Guidance written
  - Partners study
  - FDA EUA applications under review
  - Labs sharing their approval package with others

# Summarizes

- **Current Testing Issues in California**
- **Testing Capacity**
- **Barriers and challenges**
- **What facilities can do to help**
  - **ELECTRONIC Registration -- key**
  - **Level Load- Develop new contracts with labs with available capacity**
  - **Identify Priority Specimens**
  - **TTF will continue to work on issues that will more globally solve issue**