CDC’s 24/7 Response to COVID-19

CDC is aggressively responding to the global outbreak of COVID-19 and community spread in the U.S. CDC established a COVID-19 Incident Management System on January 7, 2020. On January 21, CDC activated its Emergency Operations Center to better provide ongoing support to the COVID-19 response. Highlights from CDC’s response efforts are as follows:

• More than 2,600 CDC staff are supporting the COVID-19 response.
• CDC deployed multidisciplinary teams to support state health departments in case identification, contact tracing, clinical management, and public communications. As of March 26, there have been 921 CDC deployments.
• In addition to early action taken to slow the spread of illness in the United States, CDC issued additional travel guidance, clinical guidance, guidance for long-term care facilities and nursing homes and other settings, and guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) during a shortage.
• CDC staff respond to more than 300 inquiries daily from different public health partners. Since March 28, CDC’s coronavirus content had received more than 860 million page views.
• An important part of CDC’s role during a public health emergency is to develop a test and equip state and local public health labs with testing capacity. State and local public health labs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico have successfully verified and are using CDC COVID-19 diagnostic tests.

Supplemental Coronavirus Appropriations Allow CDC to Provide Surge Funding to Public Health Partners

• The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020 provided CDC with $2.2 billion to support high-priority needs for the public health response to COVID-19.
• The Act specifies that at least $950 million is for grants or cooperative agreements to states, localities, territories, tribes, and tribal organizations. In addition, $40 million is set aside specifically for tribes.

CDC’s Immediate Plan of Action to Support State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Public Health

• In addition to ongoing technical assistance, CDC’s top priority is to get funds to state, local, territorial, and tribal public health organizations to allow them to surge to meet the challenges of this fast-moving public health threat.
• As of March 31, CDC had awarded more than $600 million to state, local, territorial, and tribal organizations for COVID-19 surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities. Though the law requires CDC to award $475 million to state and local entities within 30 days, in two weeks CDC was able to award more than $600 million. Specific funding levels for states, territories, and localities can be found here.
• CDC also announced that $80 million will be provided for tribal nations and organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health services providers to tribal entities through new and existing cooperative agreements.