• **Safe School Reopening Event at White House:** Today President Trump hosted an all afternoon event at the White House focused on the safe reopening of schools this fall. His remarks are [here](#). Secretary Azar and other HHS leaders participated, along with parents and state and local education leaders from across the country.

• **Cool Charts for Visual Learners:** CDC updated the latest graphics associated with COVIDView that reflect U.S. mortality during COVID-19 and updated the cases and deaths by county interactive graphics.

• **Operation Warp Speed** had several pieces of news today, which follow directly below.

• **Novavax to Produce Millions of COVID-19 Investigational Vaccine Doses in Commercial-Scale Manufacturing Demonstration Projects:** HHS and DoD announced a [1.6 billion agreement with Novavax, Inc.](#) of Gaithersburg, Maryland, to demonstrate commercial-scale manufacturing of the company’s COVID-19 investigational vaccine. By funding this manufacturing effort, the federal government will own the 100 million doses of investigational vaccine expected to result from the demonstration projects.

• **Collaborating with Regeneron on Large-Scale Manufacturing Demonstration Project of COVID-19 Investigational Therapeutic Treatment:** HHS and DoD announced an agreement with Regeneron, Inc. of Tarrytown, New York, to demonstrate commercial-scale manufacturing of the company’s COVID-19 investigational anti-viral antibody treatment, REGN-COV2. By funding this manufacturing effort, the federal government will own the doses expected to result from the demonstration project.

**Provider Relief Fund Updates**

**Medicaid Fact Sheet and Webinar:** Today, Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) released a new Fact Sheet for Medicaid and CHIP Providers that is now available on the Provider Relief Fund website. Please feel free to share this, as well as the Medicaid and CHIP Provider resources below, with relevant stakeholders and trade associations. Also note, HRSA is hosting a Webinar on Wednesday, July 8 from 4-5pm ET discussing the Medicaid and CHIP distribution and application. [Pre-registration for the webcast](#) is encouraged.

**Testing**

‘Surge’ COVID-19 Testing in Hotspot Jurisdictions in Florida, Louisiana and Texas: HHS is [launching free COVID-19 testing in Jacksonville, Florida; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Edinburg, Texas](#). Surge testing efforts will temporarily increase federal support to communities where there has been a recent and intense level of new cases and hospitalizations related to the ongoing outbreak.
FDA Issued Emergency Use Authorization for Point of Care Antigen Test: FDA issued a EUA for a COVID-19 antigen diagnostic test, the BD (Becton Dickinson) Veritor System for Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2. This is the second antigen test the FDA has authorized for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 antigens. This test is authorized for use in laboratories certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) for high, moderate, or waived complexity testing, meaning it can be used in patient care settings operating under a CLIA Certificate of Waiver, Certificate of Compliance, or Certificate of Accreditation. Emergency use of this test is limited to authorized laboratories using the BD Veritor Plus Analyzer Instrument. Assistant Secretary of Health ADM Giroir noted: The BD Veritor Plus System for rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2 is the latest point-of-care testing advance that will significantly expand testing in distributed locations for the benefit of all Americans. This development will help identify community spread of the virus by further enabling rapid diagnosis of COVID-19. It will also be another weapon in our arsenal to protect at-risk populations, like Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Black Americans and patients in nursing home and long-term care facilities.”

CDC Diagnostic Tests for COVID-19: CDC has developed two laboratory tests that identify SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The newer of these tests will also be used to test for influenza A and B viruses. Testing for all three viruses at the same time will provide public health officials with information they need to help reduce the spread of these viruses in the community while conserving resources that are in short supply.

Multiplex Assay for Flu and COVID-19 and Supplies: CDC updated information on Influenza SARS-CoV-2 (Flu SC2) Multiplex Assay, a real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test that detects and differentiates RNA from SARS-CoV-2, influenza A virus, and influenza B virus in upper or lower respiratory specimens. The assay provides a sensitive, nucleic-acid-based diagnostic tool for evaluation of specimens from patients in the acute phase of infection. CDC also updated information on the CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time Reverse Transcriptase (RT)–PCR Diagnostic Panel that detects the SARS-CoV-2 virus in upper and lower respiratory specimens.

Third Diagnostic Test for Differentiation of the Viruses that Cause Flu and COVID-19: FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the third diagnostic test for detection and differentiation of the viruses that cause flu and COVID-19 in individuals suspected of COVID-19 by their healthcare provider to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The FDA has previously issued EUAs to BioFire Diagnostics, LLC and QIAGEN GmbH for their tests, which include many other respiratory organisms in addition to the viruses that cause flu and COVID-19. These combination tests work by testing a single sample from a patient for multiple respiratory diseases. Tests based on taking just one sample from a patient may help alleviate the need for multiple sample collections, which means less discomfort for the patient with faster and more comprehensive results. The FDA encourages additional developers to work with the FDA on combination tests that may be useful in preserving critical testing resources during the upcoming flu season.

Chembio Diagnostics, Inc. to develop a point-of-care in vitro diagnostic test for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in respiratory specimens: BARDA and Chembio Diagnostics, Inc. are partnering to develop a point-of-care in vitro diagnostic test. This advanced lateral flow-based SARS-CoV-2 antigen detection test would run on the company’s proprietary platform. In the event the new test is developed and receives necessary FDA approvals, Chembio expects it will be able to scale production of DPP® tests at its Hauppauge, New York facilities to increase capacity for COVID-19 diagnostic tests.
**Testing Overview:** CDC updated a comprehensive summary of considerations and current CDC recommendations regarding SARS-CoV-2 testing strategy. The CDC recommendations for SARS-CoV-2 testing have been developed based on what is currently known about COVID-19 and are subject to change as additional information becomes available.

**Interim SARS-CoV-2 Testing Guidelines for Nursing Home Residents:** CDC updated guidance on testing nursing home residents for SARS-CoV-2 since they are at high risk for infection, serious illness, and death from COVID-19.

**Testing Healthcare Personnel:** CDC updated a summary of considerations and current CDC recommendations regarding testing healthcare personnel (HCP) for SARS-CoV-2.

**Testing Considerations for Non-Healthcare Workplaces:** CDC updated SARS-CoV-2 testing strategy on considerations for non-healthcare workplaces.

**Testing Updates:** To date, the FDA has currently authorized 164 tests under EUAs; these include 137 molecular tests, 25 antibody tests, and 2 antigen tests.

**Treatment**

**SiO2 Materials Science to Increase Domestic Manufacturing of Vials:** BARDA joined forces with the DoD’s Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense and SiO2 Materials Science to accelerate the production and scale-up of SiO2’s patented packaging platform for storing vaccines and therapeutics for use in the current pandemic, if needed, or future public health emergencies. With the help from the federal government, SiO2’s annual production capability will reach 120 million vials by the end of 2020 and could exceed one billion vials by April 2021, enabling maximum availability of the future FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine.

**Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency:** FDA added content to the question-and-answer appendix in its guidance titled “Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.” The updated guidance clarifies two previously suggested methods for obtaining informed consent from a hospitalized patient in isolation. In addition, the guidance includes a new question-and-answer regarding how to obtain informed consent from a prospective trial participant in certain circumstances where the enrollment timeframe is limited and the patient can receive a copy of an informed consent document electronically but cannot sign it electronically or print it out for signature. The guidance also clarifies recommendations on documenting details when using video conferencing for trial visits.

**Multistate Assessment of SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence in Blood Donors:** CDC updated information on the nationwide COVID-19 seroprevalence survey in 25 U.S. metropolitan areas to understand the percentage of people in the United States who may have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

**Hand Sanitizer Products Containing Methanol:** As part of continued action to protect the American public, the FDA is warning consumers and health care professionals about hand sanitizer products that contain methanol (a.k.a. wood alcohol), a substance often used to create fuel and antifreeze. Methanol is not an acceptable active ingredient for hand sanitizer products and can be toxic when absorbed through the skin as well as life-threatening when ingested. The agency has seen an increase in hand
sanitizer products that are labeled as containing ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but that have tested positive for methanol contamination. State officials have also reported recent adverse events from adults and children ingesting hand sanitizer products contaminated with methanol, including blindness, hospitalizations and death.

**Information for Laboratories about Coronavirus (COVID-19):** CDC updated resources for laboratories on testing for COVID-19. CDC also updated FAQs for laboratories on COVID-19 and guidance on laboratory safety practices.

**Clinical Questions about COVID-19:** CDC updated questions and answers for healthcare workers on risk, infection control, transmission, testing, diagnosis, etc. related to COVID-19.

**FDA Response at a Glance Summary:** FDA issued an updated FDA COVID-19 Response At-A-Glance Summary that provides a quick look at facts, figures, and highlights of the agency's response efforts.

**Frequently Asked Questions:** CDC updated frequently asked questions on COVID-19 spread, prevention, children, outbreaks, and warning signs.

**PPE**

**How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings:** CDC updated guidance on how to wear cloth face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

**Reopening Information**

**Considerations for Traveling Amusement Parks and Carnivals:** As traveling amusement park and carnival operations, such as those at county and state fairs or traveling carnivals, resume in some areas of the United States, CDC offers the following considerations for ways in which operators of these venues can protect staff, guests, and communities from the spread of COVID-19.

**Playing Youth Sports:** CDC updated information on playing youth sports and considerations to take to slow the spread of COVID-19 to youth.

**Businesses and Workplaces:** CDC updated guidance for businesses and workplaces as they plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19 as they reopen.

**Staffing Resources:** CDC updated staffing resources and guidance for the frontline public health workers coordinating response to COVID-19.

**Information for Specific Populations**

**Quarantine If You Might Be Sick:** CDC updated information on quarantining if you might have been exposed to COVID-19.

**COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events:** CDC updated precautions for susceptible animals and precautions for livestock for animal activities at fairs, shows, and other events during COVID-19.
Living in Shared Housing: CDC updated information on shared or congregate housing, which includes apartments, condominiums, student or faculty housing, national and state park staff housing, transitional housing, and domestic violence and abuse shelters, and information on living in close quarters.

Newly Resettled Refugee Populations: CDC updated information about refugees to the U.S., especially those who are recently resettled, may be in living or working conditions that put them at higher risk of getting COVID-19.

Funeral Home Workers: CDC updated information for funeral home workers safety and support. Funeral home workers should follow their routine infection prevention and control precautions when handling a decedent who died of COVID-19.

Social Media Toolkit: CDC updated this social media toolkit to help localize efforts in responding to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Print Resources: CDC as added additional free print resources to support COVID-19 recommendations.

CMS Updates

Medicare Payment Changes for Dialysis in the Home Setting: CMS proposed Medicare payment changes to support innovation and increased access for dialysis in the home setting. Building on President Trump’s Executive Order on Advancing American Kidney Health, CMS is proposing that certain new and innovative equipment and supplies used for dialysis treatment of patients with ESRD in the home would qualify for an additional Medicare payment. Access to home dialysis is more important during the COVID-19 pandemic so patients who have underlying conditions are not exposed.

Fact Sheet on ESRD PPS for CY 2021 Proposed Rule: CMS issued a proposed rule that proposes to update payment policies and rates under the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for renal dialysis services furnished to beneficiaries on or after January 1, 2021. This rule also proposes updates to the acute kidney injury (AKI) dialysis payment rate for renal dialysis services furnished by ESRD facilities to individuals with AKI and proposes changes to the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP).

Research Updates

MMWR on COVID-19 Among Workers in Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities: CDC released a MMWR on COVID-19 among workers in meat and poultry processing facilities in the U.S. between April and May 2020. Among 23 states reporting COVID-19 outbreaks in meat and poultry processing facilities, 16,233 cases in 239 facilities occurred, including 86 (0.5%) COVID-19–related deaths. Among cases with race/ethnicity reported, 87% occurred among racial or ethnic minorities. Commonly implemented interventions included worker screening, source control measures (universal face coverings), engineering controls (physical barriers), and infection prevention measures (additional hand hygiene stations).

Seeing Coronavirus Replicate in Kidney Cells: NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins released a blogpost called Seeing Coronavirus Replicate in Kidney Cells on how newly assembled viral particles cause infected cells to bulge, or bleb, and then self-destruct in the kidney.
COVIDView Weekly Summary: CDC updated its weekly surveillance summary of U.S. COVID-19 activity.