A focus on school reopening today with meetings at the White House and the release of a fact sheet on reopening.

The White House also released a fact sheet on the Administration’s use of every available resource to deliver a safe and effective vaccine to the American people. It serves as a great overview of some of the measures that have been taken to combat COVID-19.

Testing turnaround times are going DOWN. See the Surgeon General’s tweet below on that good news. Secretary Azar is in Alaska today as he makes his way back from Taiwan. He will be seeing many health and human service programs serving tribal communities in the state. No doubt, there will be some discussion of COVID-19 and protecting Native Americans from infection.

![Secretary Azar tweet](Image)

Funding

**HHS Announces Investments for Health Information Exchanges:** HHS today issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity to expand and accelerate innovative uses of electronic health information via health information exchanges (HIEs) to support state and local public health agencies. Strengthening health data exchange and use between HIEs and state and local public health agencies will help communities to better prevent, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies, including disasters and pandemics such as COVID-19. Award recipients will focus on improving HIE services (such as last-mile connectivity and data services) in support of state and local public health agencies. The STAR HIE Program aims to strengthen existing state and local HIE infrastructure so that public health agencies are able to better access, share, and use health information as well as support communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Provider Relief Fund Webinar:** HRSA is hosting a webinar tomorrow, August 13th at 3 PM ET for providers to learn more information about the recent expanded eligibility options. Register now to save your spot: [https://bit.ly/3fIlD2w](https://bit.ly/3fIlD2w)
Testing:
Test Turnaround Time: Great news from the Surgeon General on test turnaround times.

EUAs for SARS-CoV-2 Tests: FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorizations to the following companies for their respective tests: Solaris Diagnostics, for its molecular Solaris Multiplex SARS-CoV-2 Assay, and Alpha Genomix Laboratories, for its molecular Alpha Genomix TaqPath SARS-CoV-2 Combo Assay.

Testing updates: To date, the FDA has currently authorized 210 tests under EUAs; these include 171 molecular tests, 37 antibody tests, and 2 antigen tests.

Treatment

FAQs Importing Medical Devices During COVID-19 Pandemic: The FDA posted a new webpage with FAQs on Importing Medical Devices During the COVID-19 Pandemic. The FDA continues critical work to protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, including reviewing shipments of medical devices offered for import. The FAQ webpage provides information on importing devices that have been issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) and devices for which an enforcement-discretion policy has been published in a guidance document. The webpage includes content on importing respirators, face masks, and personal protective equipment (PPE), donating medical devices, importing other medical devices, monitoring import status, and identifying contacts for import questions.

FAQs on Registration and Listing Medical Devices During COVID-19 Pandemic: The FDA posted a new webpage with FAQs on Registration and Listing of Medical Devices During the COVID-19 Pandemic. This webpage provides information for medical device establishments, including owners and operators of places of business (also called facilities) that are involved in the production (e.g., manufacturing, assembling, processing) and distribution of medical devices that are authorized by Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) or that are the subject of one of FDA’s COVID-19 guidance documents. In general, most facilities required to register with FDA are also required to list the devices they manufacture, prepare, propagate, compound, assemble, or process and the activities they perform on such devices. This webpage answers frequently asked questions about procedures and requirements concerning the registration of facilities and the listing of devices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unapproved and Misbranded COVID-19 Products: A U.S. District Court in Florida has granted motions for default judgment and entered permanent injunctions against defendants Genesis II Church of Health and Healing, Mark Grenon, Joseph Grenon, Jonathan Grenon, and Jordan Grenon for violating federal law by distributing their product, “Miracle Mineral Solution,” an industrial bleach that the defendants
claimed is a cure for COVID-19 and other serious diseases. The orders prohibit the defendants from selling or distributing unapproved or misbranded products such as Mineral Miracle Solution (MMS). The FDA continues to advise consumers to stop using the MMS product immediately and dispose of it. In addition, consumers should contact their physician or healthcare provider if they have experienced any problems that may be related to taking or using this product. Adverse reactions or quality problems experienced with the use of this product may be reported to the FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program. In prior warning statements, the FDA has urged consumers not to purchase or use MMS, explaining that drinking MMS is the same as drinking bleach and can cause dangerous side effects, including severe vomiting, diarrhea, and life-threatening low-blood pressure.

**Warning Letter for Ethanol Containing Hand Sanitizers:** As part of its continued efforts to protect the American public, the FDA issued a warning letter to Soluciones Cosméticas, S.A. de C.V., for Bersih hand sanitizers that are labeled to contain ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol is not an acceptable ingredient for hand sanitizer products and can be toxic when absorbed through the skin as well as life-threatening when ingested. FDA urges consumers not to use any products on the agency’s list of hand sanitizers with potential methanol contamination or subpotent levels of ethanol or isopropyl alcohol, and continue checking this list often, as it is being updated frequently.

**Interim Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for Handling and Processing Specimens Associated with COVID-19:** CDC updated interim guidance and laboratory biosafety guidelines for handling and processing specimens associated with COVID-19. Timely communication between clinical and laboratory staff is essential to minimize the risk incurred in handling specimens from patients with possible SARS-CoV-2 infection.

**Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals:** CDC updated guidance for state public health veterinarians and state animal health officials to help guide decisions on testing animals for SARS-CoV-2.

**Reopening Information**


**How CDC Determines the Level of a Country’s COVID-19 Travel Health Notice:** CDC updated information on how they determine the level of a destination’s COVID-19 travel health notice (THN). During the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC has also provided an interactive world map specifically showing COVID-19 travel recommendations by destination. This world map uses an evidence-based approach, referred to as the COVID-19 THN Risk Assessment, to evaluate the COVID-19 risk in each destination.

**Information for Specific Populations**

**When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19:** CDC updated information on when you can be around others (ending home isolation) if you have had, or likely had, COVID-19.

**Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics Treating Companion Animals During the COVID-19 Response:** CDC updated guidance veterinarians and veterinary staff providing care to companion animals.

**Research Updates**
Addressing the Twin Challenges of Substance Use Disorders and COVID-19: NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins released a blogpost titled, “Addressing the Twin Challenges of Substance Use Disorders and COVID-19” in which he had a conversation with Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of NIH’s National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The COVID-19 pandemic is having a wide range of negative impacts on people affected by a variety of health conditions. Among the hardest hit are individuals struggling with substance use disorders, with recent data indicating that suspected drug-related overdoses and deaths are on the rise across the U.S.

Vaping Linked to an Elevated Risk of COVID-19: The *Journal of Adolescent Health* released a study on the Association Between Youth Smoking, Electronic Cigarette Use, and COVID-19 and found that teens and young adults who vape are five times more likely to become infected with COVID-19 compared to those who did not use e-cigarettes. (This is not an HHS-released/endorsed study)