

Dear Governor,

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership in the COVID-19 response. As community spread of the virus continues, we must all improve our ability to detect disease and respond rapidly and accurately with specific interventions and therapeutics.

Your health officials and hospitals have been reporting hospital-level data to the Federal COVID-19 response; however, the data we are receiving is not always complete or timely enough to be effective. The attached document summarizes the status of your hospitals' reporting for the past two weeks. We understand that staff are stretched, as are hospital systems, but as we move into the next phase of the response, it is critical that we receive complete, accurate, daily hospital-level data in order to ensure that critical items such as therapeutics, testing supplies, and PPE are distributed efficiently and effectively across the country.

In the most recent analysis of the Adaptive COVID-19 Treatment Trial (ACTT), findings suggest that remdesivir is most effective in hospitalized patients who require oxygen but who are not yet intubated or on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), and therefore timely drug administration to patients who can benefit is critical. These findings, among other concerns, have led us to modify our data collection plan to require daily reporting from hospitals instead of waiting for responses to periodic weekly or bi-weekly requests.

We are asking that your state upload accurate data for each hospital in your state, beginning no later than **10:00pm ET this Wednesday, July 15** and daily thereafter, including weekends. The letter we are sending to your hospitals today specifies what needs to be submitted, and is attached to this letter.

We have reviewed the various mechanisms for reporting COVID-19 hospital data. Starting July 15, we will offer two hospital reporting options (1) Teletracking and (2) HHS Protect. We are retiring CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for COVID-19 *hospital* reporting. This does not impact reporting for other conditions through NHSN, for example COVID-19 nursing home data will continue to be reported through NHSN. As with NHSN, through the new reporting options, states will continue to receive access to and reports of their data.

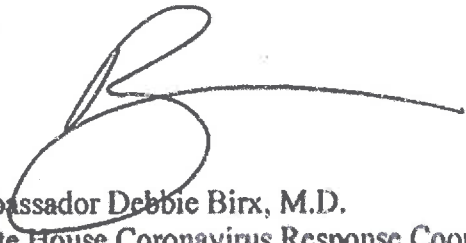
In order to ensure accurate and timely reporting of these data, we ask that you demand this of all of your hospitals, especially those that have failed to report daily or completely. Please insist that every hospital leader assign this reporting responsibility as a mission-critical assignment. If need be, you could consider prioritizing National Guard duties, in coordination with State Health Officers and Emergency Managers, to serve reporting needs for hospitals in the red zones. These individuals can help you to collect key information on the real-time status of hospitalized patients and availability of critical supplies. This approach will be time-limited as other mechanisms for data collection and validation are stood up.

Data collected this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (July 15 – 17) will be used to guide next week's distribution of remdesivir as well as other critical supplies from the federal government, including PPE. Your State Health Officer and Emergency Management Director will receive reports on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights indicating any hospitals in your state for

which we have not received daily data. An updated Guidance for Hospital Reporting and frequently asked questions document is attached outlining field definitions and approved mechanisms for hospitals to submit data.

If you have any questions, please contact HHS Protect at [protect-servicedesk@hhs.gov](mailto:protect-servicedesk@hhs.gov). Thank you for your quick attention to this vital request and for everything you do to support those affected by COVID-19.

Sincerely,

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Ambassador Debbie Birx, M.D.  
White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AM Azar II', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary of Health and Human Services