

THE DEMOCRATIC COVID-19 RESPONSE

A ROADMAP TO REOPENING BY ENSURING A SPEEDY AND UBIQUITOUS LAB TESTING SYSTEM (RESULTS)

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Trump Administration promised a response on testing, but never delivered. Public health experts have increasingly made clear that comprehensive testing is a minimum requirement for the country to safely reopen, but the Trump Administration is not leading and has not released any plan to get us there. In recognition of this gap in leadership, the white paper puts forward a proposal to get back on track with testing. Led by Senator Murray, it incorporates ideas from a number of Senate Democrats and public health experts to effectively force the Trump Administration to develop a testing regime.

Require the Trump Administration to develop and adopt a strategic plan to leverage a “whole of society” response that:

1. Creates a pipeline to develop and manufacture tests and testing supplies;
2. Works to administer tests across the country;
3. Prioritizes the health and safety of the entire population in using testing to inform policy decisions; and
4. Uses testing data to inform the broader public health response.

Pass emergency funding to enable rapid scaling of testing.

Ensure there is a pipeline to develop, validate, and allocate tests by:

1. Addressing any testing supply shortages;
2. Directing HHS and FEMA to compile and publicly share information about testing supply inventory and shortages; and
3. Ensuring development of a variety of testing methods, with a focus on tests that deliver rapid results.

Guarantee structures to administer tests in every community across the country by:

1. Deploying tests and other medical supplies to communities that need them;
2. Using health disparities data, including inequities in outcomes based on race, ethnicity, sex, age, disability status, geographic location, and more, to ensure no community is left to fight COVID-19 without the resources and support they need;
3. Establishing sufficient personnel to administer tests to patients; and
4. Making sure tests are available to patients with no cost sharing.

Establish robust public health infrastructure to respond to and better contain COVID-19 including:

1. Investments in foundational public health capabilities;
2. Support for public health data modernization; and
3. Ensuring we can conduct extensive, high precision contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine.

Ensure transparency and accountability across the testing system by:

1. Eliminating opportunities for political interference in the testing system;
2. Placing strong transparency reporting requirements on the supply chain; and
3. Requiring independent analysis on the effectiveness of COVID-19 testing.