



**Office of Governor Walz  
& Lt. Governor Flanagan**

# State of Minnesota COVID-19 Update



# Comprehensive Testing Strategy Developed by the Governor's Work Group

## Objectives:

- Starting with priority patients, ensure PCR testing of all symptomatic Minnesotans
- Testing (PCR and Serologic) should be done with the fastest possible turnaround
- Testing (PCR and Serologic) should be conducted strategically:
  - To meet public health goals, which includes goals supporting clinical practice (diagnosis and treatment) and population health (surveillance and containment of spread)
  - With an understanding of the scientific limitations of the tests and our evolving understanding of the disease

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## Strategies:

- Rapidly and significantly increase testing capacity throughout the state
- Fully utilize available and growing existing capacity in hospital based labs, reference labs, and research labs
- Resolve supply chain issues
- Reduce cost barriers
- Resolve billing issues

# Phase 1 Agreement to Implement the Strategy

- Agreement between major hospital systems on priority goals and the need for a central lab capacity to support and augment current capacity
- Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota agree to collaborate to create:
  - Central lab to accommodate the expanded testing
  - Virtual command center in coordination with the health systems to manage the daily flow of testing to assure goals are met
  - Capacity to partner with the state on cutting edge analytics and research to inform testing, treatment, and containment strategies

- Set clear direction to test all symptomatic Minnesotans
- Intensive testing of the following:
  - Vulnerable populations, including Minnesotans living in congregate settings and those experiencing homelessness
  - Staff that serve vulnerable populations and health care workers
  - Communities of Color and American Indian populations
  - Workforce for critical infrastructure
- Outbreak “hot spots”

# Comprehensive Testing Strategy: Phase I

- \$36 million from COVID-19 fund today
- Partnering with the Legislature on future phases:
  - Following the science
  - Boosting surveillance and case investigation/contact tracing



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