



FEMA

April 16, 2020

Dear State Partner:

Data and information-sharing are critical for moving forward in the COVID 19 response. You were previously asked by Vice President Pence to complete daily data reports on testing, capacity, utilization, and patient flows, to contribute to the management information for the public health response to the COVID-19.

We appreciate your partnership in helping us obtain this data along with the many other data requests that you have received over the course of the last several weeks. We have also had questions from many of you on these varying data collection initiatives and we have been working in partnership with the White House Coronavirus Task Force to streamline these efforts.

Therefore, I am writing to clarify information collection requirements as we recognize that our joint efforts to collect and analyze information may have duplicated the original information request and created an unnecessary workload burden.

Most importantly, our Region IV FEMA/HHS Data Team has confirmed that your state system for reporting hospital data to the Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) is capable of responding to the Vice President's data request. Your state has either reported facility level data or provided access to your data system in order to meet the daily request to the Region IV RRCC.

As the FEMA Regional Administrator, this serves as written certification affirming that your State has an established, functioning data reporting stream to the Federal Government that will provide all of the information required at the appropriate daily or higher frequency.

Therefore, hospitals in your state can cease reporting into other redundant systems, or they can implement other reporting processes outlined in the VP's request, if they report the data to your system. With this agreement, your state will report the information to the Region IV RRCC, where it will contribute to the federal Unified Command Group Common Operating Picture.

At your discretion, please provide a copy of this letter to your hospitals and ask them to report the data requests listed in the attached letter to your reporting system. Please continue to work with the Region IV FEMA/HHS Data Team to ensure they receive the data from your system. We believe this will alleviate administrative burdens on your hospitals and enhance situational awareness for your team. Please let me know if you have questions. Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gracia B. Szczech". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Gracia B. Szczech
Regional Administrator