COVID-19 testing and virus monitoring tools – alongside other measures such as broad use of personal protective equipment and continued physical distancing – will play a critical role in achieving a safe and successful economic reopening. This includes tools to screen for symptoms; identify infected individuals through diagnostic tests; notify anyone who has been exposed to an infected individual through contact tracing; and track and analyze data gathered through syndromic surveillance to determine if the virus is emerging or waning in communities.

While much of the work of virus monitoring falls to states, a nationally coordinated approach is needed to ensure that resources are allocated where they can be used most effectively and that states are collecting and reporting data consistently. National coordination will also help ease the challenges faced by employers as they navigate various state and local rules.

*Business Roundtable calls on federal agencies to issue additional guidance in the following areas to facilitate a coordinated national approach:*

**I. Screening**

As an important first line of defense, many employers are using screening methods such as questionnaires, thermometers, and body heat scanners as a precondition for entering facilities. Employers would welcome additional guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on which types of screening are best suited to different business environments. In many cases, self-attestation by employees from home may be the safest and most appropriate means of screening.
II. Testing

As testing capacity continues to increase across the country and new types of tests are developed and validated for different applications, CDC and FDA should regularly update guidance to states and employers regarding who should be tested, when and how often, and via what testing method.

1. Update Guidelines

CDC should continue to update testing guidelines identifying which parts of the population should be tested. For employers, CDC guidance should provide direction on which employees should be tested, through what method and how often. Guidance should permit flexibility for employers to implement additional testing programs, whether on or off site, based on the particular needs of workplace settings or at-risk populations. Guidance should also address reporting of test results to public health officials.

2. Worker Testing

CDC should issue clear guidance on which serological tests are valid for use, for what purposes these tests should be considered and how they should be administered. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission should issue guidance on how serological tests may be used in the workplace.

III. Contact Tracing & Tracking

Federal agencies, including CDC, presently lack the digital infrastructure to collect and process public health data, quickly identify and predict emerging hotspots and coordinate interventions; therefore, additional federal funding is needed to develop these capabilities. As the economy gradually reopens, states also will need federal funding to significantly scale up contacting tracing and tracking (i.e., syndromic monitoring) systems and develop mechanisms to collect and analyze data. Additionally, current approaches to contact tracing and tracking of infections and exposure are inconsistent across the states. CDC should encourage states to adopt consistent, transparent and interoperable systems for contact tracing and tracking of COVID-19 data.
1. Standardization and Interoperability
   The federal government should facilitate the development of standardized protocols and interoperable tracing and tracking systems—including manual and digital systems— for the timely collection, processing and sharing of data between state, local and federal public health agencies.

2. Digital Tracing & Tracking
   CDC and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services guidance should address how digital tools should be used to augment traditional methods of contact tracing and tracking in a manner that protects individual privacy.

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1. See Business Roundtable’s white paper on protecting the privacy of personal COVID-19 data.