



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30329-4027

April 21, 2020

Janet Hamilton, MPH  
Executive Director  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
2635 Century Parkway NE, Suite 700  
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

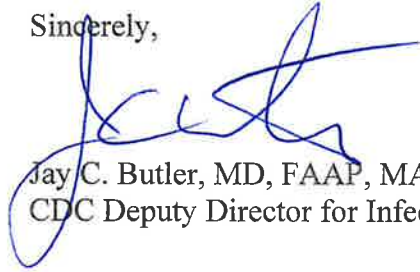
I am responding to your letter dated April 14, 2020, to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Dr. Robert Redfield regarding Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) interim position statement Interim 20-ID-01, "Standardized surveillance case definition and national notification for 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)."

The position statement was reviewed by the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) and by the Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services (CSELS), Deputy Director for Public Health Science and Surveillance (DDPHSS). The following is CDC's response:

CDC concurs with CSTE interim position statement Interim-20-ID-01, entitled "Standardized surveillance case definition and national notification for 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)." This position statement provides a standardized public health surveillance case definition for COVID-19 and places COVID-19 under national surveillance through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). The position statement was developed through a collaborative CSTE and CDC working group effort. Adoption and implementation of this position statement will clarify clinical, epidemiologic, and laboratory criteria for case reporting, case notification, and case classification, and is thus very important to support local, state, national, and international public health surveillance activities for COVID-19.

I appreciate CSTE's commitment to this important public health issue as well as the opportunity for CDC programs to provide input. We look forward to continued collaboration with CSTE regarding this and other public health issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



Jay C. Butler, MD, FAAP, MACP, FIDSA  
CDC Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases

cc:

Dr. Anne Schuchat, CDC Principal Deputy Director

Dr. Chesley Richards, CDC Deputy Director for Public Health Science and Surveillance

Dr. Nancy Messonnier, NCIRD Director

Dr. Michael Iademarco, CSELS Director