April 18, 2020

Dear Hospital Administrators:

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has obtained approval from FEMA to provide requested data on behalf of the hospitals utilizing the ESF8 Hospital Portal. This letter will serve as a written release of requirements by individual hospitals to meet the reporting obligations outlined in the letters from Vice President Pence (on 3/29/20) and HHS Secretary Alex Azar (on 4/10/20). Some modifications to the ESF8 portal will be made next week in order to meet the additional data elements currently not captured but required by HHS and FEMA. In order for LDH to take on this responsibility, it is of utmost importance for hospitals to be diligent with daily reporting into the ESF8 portal, including the new data elements that will be added next week.

While FEMA is allowing the state to report the ESF8 portal data elements on behalf of the hospitals, it is still the responsibility of hospitals to report their in-house and commercial lab testing data directly to HHS via the HHS Protect System. As hospitals acquire in-house laboratory testing capabilities for COVID-19, they should reach out to the FEMA/HHS COVID-19 Diagnostics Task Force at fema-hhs-covid-diagnostics-tf@fema.dhs.gov for support and access to the HHS Protect System. Additional laboratory reporting details can be found in the FAQs document sent last week (4/10/20).

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Guidry, M.D.
State Health Officer/LDH Medical Director

JG/csp