

Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans, led by full committee Republican Leader Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Republican Leader Brett Guthrie (R-KY), have been working the last several months to develop recommendations for a potential second wave of COVID-19 infections in the United States.

Today's [report](#) includes many testing and surveillance recommendations officials should consider to better position the country for any future spikes in infections. The testing and surveillance recommendations are the first in a series of working documents. Additional pillars of this agenda will be released in the coming months.

Key Recommendations:

- Congress and the Executive Branch should consider what diagnostic tests and testing supplies, and at what level, should be included in the Strategic National Stockpile.
- States, working with the federal government, should determine a strategy that utilizes all available testing resources, including rapid point-of-care diagnostic testing, high-throughput laboratory testing, and antibody testing.
- This strategy should include prioritizing the testing of highly vulnerable populations, including the top priority of testing all residents and staff at nursing homes or other congregate living facilities.
- Public Health Laboratories, or PHLs, should be modernized to provide access to high throughput, yet flexible, testing equipment, similar to what large commercial laboratories have. Funding for such equipment could be provided through the epidemiology and lab capacity grants program.
- The FDA should continue to encourage development by the private sector of other innovative new diagnostic tests and new methods of testing, especially tests and methods that potentially will reduce the demand for scarce testing resources and supplies given potential supply chain issues.
- The Executive Branch has issued guidelines and principles to help guide state, local, and tribal governments develop contact tracing programs. While each state's needs will be different, states, in partnership with the federal government, should assess the level of contact tracers needed to support these efforts and how to meet those needs.
- Congress and the Executive Branch should continue to monitor the implementation and use of the large amounts of funding and authorities for diagnostic and antibody testing provided in recent legislation and assess if additional resources and authorities are necessary.
- Congress and the Executive Branch should work together to define the intended purpose of a COVID-19 surveillance system and work together to determine what a comprehensive surveillance strategy should look like to achieve that purpose.
- States should reconsider any policy that mandates nursing homes accept patients who have tested positive for COVID-19. This should include patients who are presumed positive by a medical professional.

Read the full list of recommendations and findings [here](#). You can read the Dear Colleague announcing this project [here](#).