

**ACCG Notes from Conference Call by the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
March 18, 2020**

VP Pence:

Extend paid family leave

Free tests

Working on economic stimulus bill

FEMA moves to level one status today

Video conference tomorrow with FEMA

Dr. Debra Burkes:

Growing concern that there are a lot of people that are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms spreading the virus.

Yesterday and today a new testing platform has been sent to all states for high speed high through put testing

They are working on self-testing kits

Numbers will dramatically increase over the next few days as the backlog of tests are worked through

CMS:

Only essential staff should be allowed in nursing homes and aggressive testing of staff

Expanding telehealth to all Medicare beneficiaries without co-pay

Today medical community was asked to postpone all non-emergency and elective procedures to preserve healthcare resources

OMB:

Update on funding requests and approvals from Congress

Office of Homeland Security:

Developing guidance for handling mission critical workers for running critical infrastructure (e.g. electricity, conduct of elections, water services, public health services, etc.)

to be released tomorrow morning

USDA:

Making sure food supply chain remains intact and working (foodsupplychain@usda.gov)

Collaborative to deliver a million meals a week to children in rural areas

Schools can leverage USDA funding programs to provide meals to students (feeding kids@usda.gov)

FEMA:

All local governments eligible for funding under the Federal Declaration – all reasonable actions and expenses will be reimbursed – please do not ask funding questions at this time

SBA:

Entire state can be declared now without having to identify a harmed business in every county, Governor makes request.

After state application is approved, small businesses will be able to apply for loans (sba.gov/disaster)

Department of Labor:

Unemployment insurance – published guidance on March 12th

Call volumes are very large and will take time to reduce, online filing and communication preferred
Wage and Hour Division has posted guidance on website (dol.gov/whd) and will continue updates as new legislation is passed. Please refer to wage and hour fact sheet #7 or call their hotline.