US COVID-19 Response Program Overview

Public health departments around the United States are working daily to meet the threat of COVID-19—balancing the dual priorities of protecting public health while safely reopening communities and economies. Our US COVID-19 Response Program works with public health officials and health department staff to strengthen their efforts on prevention strategies, testing, isolation and quarantine, contact tracing and community engagement in order to meet those goals.

Our Approach

We collaborate closely with health departments to promote an evidence-based response through real-time analysis of quantitative and qualitative data (surveillance, epidemiological and programmatic) that guide and continuously improve program design and operations. We identify pragmatic, straightforward solutions that can be implemented quickly and at scale—and that can be adapted based on accumulated data. Through these engagements, we will demonstrate, document and disseminate the core strategies and practical approaches needed to control COVID-19 in the United States and reopen communities and economies safely and efficiently.

We apply an equity lens to all our work, prioritizing epidemiology, technology, communication and community engagement strategies that improve and equalize outcomes for groups that experience health disparities. Through epidemiologic support, we work with health departments to design the best metrics for measuring program performance and outcomes. In technological support, we supplement existing case management platforms with simple, useful apps that make contact tracing easier and more efficient. Through communications and community engagement work, we partner with public health and community leaders to effectively reach and build trust with vulnerable communities.

About Us

Vital Strategies is a global public health organization working in 70+ countries to strengthen public health systems. Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies, aims to prevent at least 100 million deaths from cardiovascular disease and epidemics. Through its Prevent Epidemics program, Resolve to Save Lives has rapidly leveraged existing networks to establish a multi-disciplinary, multi-pronged effort to support countries throughout Africa and beyond. This work is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Gates Philanthropy Partners, (which is funded with support from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative,) the CDC Foundation and the Start Small Foundation.
What We Offer

Our team offers expert consultation and a suite of tools to help health departments more effectively develop, scale and optimize local COVID-19 response programs. Each package is customized to the jurisdiction’s needs, and can include:

1. **Consultation and Technical Assistance** in a wide range of areas, such as:
   - Epidemiology
   - Testing, isolation and quarantine strategies
   - Indicators and metrics
   - Cluster and outbreak investigation
   - Data collection and management
   - Program evaluation
   - Communication strategies
   - Contact tracing

2. **Support for COVID-19 response strategies**, such as testing and contact tracing, [Box-It-In](#) and risk alert-level frameworks—as well as the community supports and engagement that facilitate them.

3. **Embedded staff** to support critical needs identified by jurisdictions, such as:
   - Program design and implementation
   - Project management
   - Epidemiological analysis
   - Community engagement
   - Digital technologies
   - Risk and public communications

4. **Rapid response grants** for a variety of needs – for example, to support people in isolation or conduct perceptions research that can inform outreach.

5. **A suite of digital tools and technology** to facilitate effective and efficient contact tracing efforts.

6. **Communications and community engagement support**, with priority focus on equity and access for vulnerable populations and creating an enabling environment for contact tracing success.

7. **Participation in a COVID response learning community.**

For more information about our COVID-19 response please visit [www.preventepidemics.org](http://www.preventepidemics.org) and Resolve to Save Lives visit [www.resolvetosavelives.com](http://www.resolvetosavelives.com)