

April 23, 2021

Ashley Treharne, MSc
ELC Project Officer/Program Advisor
Scientific Programs & Development Branch
Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dear Ashley:

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) remains deeply committed to supporting efforts to control and prevent COVID-19 in our schools. Currently the state has ample funding and testing capacity available to school districts in Iowa to do just that, and our students have been back in school successfully since August. Accordingly, at this time, the state will be declining the funding "Emerging Infections ELC Reopening Schools" in the amount of \$95,029,161. This decision was made together with our colleagues at the Iowa Department of Education. Respectfully, we ask that should the allowable use of this funding change, the state would have the opportunity to seek reconsideration of our acceptance of this funding.

Iowa has demonstrated our commitment to having our children in schools safely and responsibly since the pandemic began. Schools have worked collaboratively with state and local health departments to mitigate spread, respond to positive cases, and communicate with families about testing options that are available to them. To date, no Iowa schools have claimed expenses for testing supplies or services, and ample funding in the following categories remains available for that use should the need arise.

IDPH has exclusively used FEMA funding for our state operated Test Iowa sites, and for related expenses of our State Hygienic Lab. The below is a summary of additional funds through which testing would be allowable:

- **Enhancing Detection: \$100,843,972**
- **Enhancing Detection Expansion: \$181,600,727**
- **CARES (ELV0): \$7,053,143**
- **IPC (PCI0): \$1,433,832**

The Iowa Department of Education and School Districts also have testing funding available through (balances to date):

- ESSER I: **\$6,654,222**
- ESSER II: **\$331,542,958**
- ESSER III: **\$770,643,635**

Schools and school districts can also access testing through the FEMA supported Test Iowa Clinics or by working collaboratively with IDPH and local public health departments to administer:

- State supplied test kits to be administered on site and couriered to the State Hygienic Lab.
- The State Hygienic Lab will provide BinaxNOW cards to be administered on site.

Access to testing for students and teachers remains a strong priority in Iowa. Together our agencies will continue to ensure schools, school districts, and parents understand and utilize the testing options and opportunities available to them should they deem necessary. Again, we request that should allowable expenses for this funding expand or change, particularly if that change implicates vaccine distribution, we have the opportunity to access this funding.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Ann Garvey on our team with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Garcia

Interim Director, Iowa Department of Public Health