FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Funding for SHIP COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation Draft Example Activities

The list below includes examples of activities. While this list is not exhaustive any activity not included on this list must be directly related to COVID-19 testing and community mitigation. The hospital must demonstrate that the related expense is directly and reasonably related to the provision of COVID-19 testing or COVID-19 mitigation activities. The related expense must be appropriate given relevant clinical and public health guidance. For additional examples, you can visit the CDC Community Mitigation Framework website. **Funding may not be used for any activity related to vaccine purchase or distribution,** but could be used for community vaccine education activities.

COVID-19 Testing

Purchase and administer COVID-19 tests, using the following guidelines:

- Viral tests to diagnose active COVID-19 infections, antibody tests to diagnose past COVID-19 infections, and other tests that the Secretary and/or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determines appropriate in guidance.

- COVID-19 screening testing and testing supports to ensure diagnostic testing of symptomatic and exposed individuals and asymptomatic individuals;

- Offsite/third party administration of tests and/or laboratory services that support the hospital and community;

- COVID-19 rapid tests; or

- COVID-19 at-home test distribution.

Develop and implement strategies to address patient hesitancy around testing.

Ensure access for specific community populations to address long-standing systemic health and social inequities that have put some rural residents at increased risk of getting COVID-19 or having severe illness.

Installing temporary structures, leasing of properties, and retrofitting facilities as necessary to support COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 mitigation.

Education, rehabilitation, prevention, treatment, and support services for symptoms occurring after recovery from acute COVID-19 infection, including, but not limited to, support for activities of daily living—this includes services for the range of symptoms described as Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC) (i.e. long COVID).

Other activities to support COVID-19 testing including planning for implementation of a COVID-19 testing program, hiring staff, procuring supplies to provide testing, training providers and staff on COVID-19 testing procedures, and reporting data to HHS on COVID-19 testing activities.

Community Mitigation

The goal of community mitigation in areas with local COVID-19 transmission is to slow its spread and to

protect all individuals, especially those at [increased risk for severe illness](#), while minimizing the negative impacts of these strategies. These strategies are used to minimize morbidity and mortality of COVID-19 in societal sectors such as schools, workplaces, and healthcare organizations. Allowable mitigation activities include, but are not limited to:

- Promote behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases (healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, cloth face coverings).
- Maintain healthy environments (clean and disinfect, ensure ventilation systems operate properly, install physical barriers and guides to support social distancing if appropriate).
- Educate the community for healthy operations, including education around vaccines.
- Maintain health operations for staff, including building measures to cope with employee stress and burnout.
- Investigate COVID-19 cases; the process of working with a person (patient) who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and includes, but is not limited to:
    - Discuss patient test result or diagnosis;
    - Assess patient symptom history and health status;
    - Provide instructions and support for self-isolation and symptom monitoring; and
    - Identification of people (contacts) who may have been exposed to COVID-19;
- Conduct contact tracing; the process of notifying people (contacts) of their potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 and includes, but is not limited to:
    - Provide information about the virus;
    - Discuss their symptom history and other relevant health information; and
    - Instructions for self-quarantine and monitoring for symptoms.
- Use digital technologies to strengthen the hospital's core capacity to support the public-health response to COVID-19 including, but not limited to, population surveillance, case identification, contact tracing, and evaluation of interventions on the basis of mobility data and communication with the public.
- Support and referrals to testing, clinical services, and other essential support services; and Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission in the [CDC Community Mitigation Framework.](#)
- Other activities to support COVID-19 mitigation including planning for implementation of a COVID-19 mitigation program and training providers and staff on COVID-19 mitigation procedures.