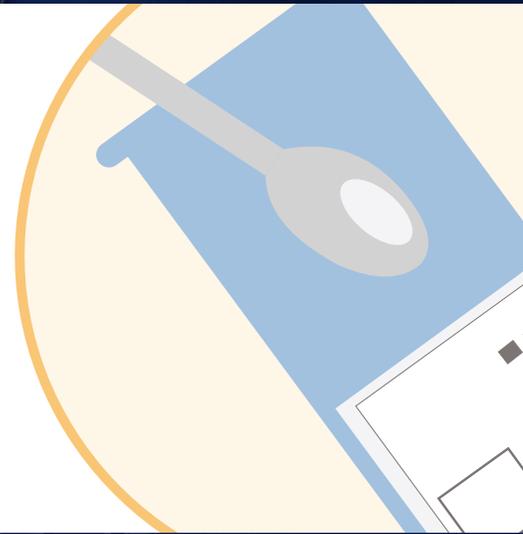


# SUPPORT A NATIONAL TESTING PLAN AND ELIMINATE PRICE GOUGING ON COVID-19 TESTING

Throughout the pandemic, public health officials have agreed that comprehensive testing and contact tracing are necessary to slow and stop the spread of the coronavirus. ACHP member companies continue to assist state, local and federal government partners and other community allies in identifying active cases and mitigating further spread as they wait for more vaccines to become available. Meanwhile, as the nation continues to fight the pandemic and move towards a new post-pandemic reality, our communities need a plan to ensure that every American who needs a test can get one at no cost.



## ACHP urges Congress and the Administration to develop a national, coordinated testing plan and eliminate price gouging practices by lab companies.

### Develop a national, coordinated testing plan for return to workplaces and schools

As communities develop strategies to safely return to post-pandemic life, federal relief funding should be allocated for back-to-school testing. Federal support for testing workers returning to the job site is critical for economic recovery. Testing any worker or child with symptoms or asymptomatic testing for COVID-19 exposure should continue to be the responsibility of health insurers.

### Eliminate price gouging by capping what laboratories can charge per COVID-19 test

Unprecedented pricing by lab companies has led to greater waste in our health care system, putting additional pressure on in-demand health care resources. Some labs charge over \$2,000 (20 times the Medicare rate) for a single COVID-19 test which health insurers are required to cover without recourse, while other laboratories process COVID-19 tests for under \$10 per test. In comparison, Medicare is paying \$100 for high-throughput COVID-19 tests – double what it would normally pay under a public health emergency. No laboratory should be allowed to charge more than Medicare for a COVID-19 test, regardless of payer or network status. Given this flagrant overcharging by lab companies, Congress must mandate fair pricing practices to ensure every dollar spent on testing delivers high value.

*The Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP) represents the nation's top-performing non-profit health plans to improve affordability and outcomes in the health care system. ACHP member companies provide high-quality coverage and care to 24 million Americans across 36 states and D.C.*



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