



July 9, 2020

Governor Jared Polis

State Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax, RM 136
Denver, CO 80203

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, Executive Director CDPHE

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246

RE: UNIFORM TESTING STRATEGY NEEDED

Dear Governor Polis and Jill Ryan:

We hope this finds you in good health. We are all on the front lines dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping our community safe. The City of Aspen has continued to align with Pitkin County's "box-it-in" strategy. Our steadfast commitment and goal to provide a resilient and healthy community is based on modeling the behavior of our Five Commitments to Containment:

- I will maintain 6 feet of social distance.
- I will wash my hands often.
- I will cover my face in public.
- I will stay home when I am sick.
- I will get tested immediately if I have symptoms.

Keep Aspen Safe, Keep Aspen Open! A key component to the Five Commitments is the ability for individuals to get tested when necessary, and to receive their results quickly. In order to guarantee that this can occur, the Aspen City Council strongly believes that an uniform testing strategy is needed at the state-level. The strategy should focus testing based on need, avoiding misuse of the limited supply of testing equipment. Throughout our region, we have seen disparities in testing strategies, with testing being conducted even for the "worried well." This statewide guidance should hold all counties, hospitals, and healthcare providers to the same standard while giving these entities the tools to responsibly administer tests.

We also believe that strong testing and communication systems should accompany this uniform testing strategy. The State should have a stable supply of testing equipment and reagents, and test results should also be consistently delivered within 48 hours. Recently, local healthcare providers have seen results take up to 8 to 10 days. In addition to a strong testing system, we believe that communications should also be robust and target key populations.

The City of Aspen continues to see high numbers of visitors to our region. Tailoring communications to this group through various channels will prevent visitors from coming to the state unwell, and will help our visitors stay well while visiting. These systems are crucial to keeping our economy and healthcare systems going, and work should be done now to ensure that there is enough capacity across all of Colorado.

Aspen City Council strongly encourages that leadership within the Governor's Office and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment lead these efforts to develop not only the uniform strategy for testing across the state, but also build the infrastructure to support a robust testing system.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "TOPPE".

MAYOR

Ward Hauenstein, Skippy Mesirov, Ann Mullins, Rachael Richards, CITY COUNCIL