

May 8, 2020

Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee

Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee

### **Section 36.00—Department of Public Health, Increase of Emergency Funding for COVID-19 Response**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 36.00, Chapter 2, Statutes of 2020 (SB 89), the following report is respectfully submitted.

In the last few weeks, physical distancing and stay-at-home interventions have helped flatten the curve of newly-acquired cases of COVID-19. The Administration is working to continue that trend while also beginning to open parts of the economy gradually. If this reopening is not done carefully, the state risks a resurgence in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

An essential component to containing the spread of COVID-19 is timely case identification and contact tracing. While work is underway to develop a COVID-19 vaccine and effective therapeutics, these likely will not be available for many months. To be able to loosen restrictions, the state must take a multi-pronged approach, which includes immediately scaling up a community contact tracing effort. Key components of this approach are rapid case detection, identification of contacts, and isolation or quarantine of those who are symptomatic and exposed.

The following augmentations to this Budget Act item are needed to protect health and safety and reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- \$8.7 million to item [4265-001-0001](#) for the Department of Public Health to support the development of a virtual training academy to train new staff to augment existing local public health staff for the purpose of contact tracing. The University of California San Francisco, along with the University of California Los Angeles, will develop and deploy a data-driven curriculum. The new statewide training will be primarily conducted online but includes live sessions with instructors and will take approximately 20 hours over the course of five days. Contact tracers will receive training in epidemiology, principles of contact tracing, and infectious disease

containment strategies. The online training will be provided to all local public health departments at no cost.

- \$18.7 million to item [4265-001-0001](#) for the Department of Public Health for contracts to support the development of a data management platform alongside the state's disease surveillance system to support the contact tracing workforce. Under these contracts, Accenture will launch a contact tracing technology platform developed by Salesforce and run a contact tracing call center in collaboration with Amazon. The same system has been successfully implemented in Massachusetts as the foundation of a large-scale contact tracing program. The platform will be provided to all local public health departments at no cost.

The Administration expects that many of the costs initially funded via this allocation will be reimbursed by federal COVID-19 stimulus funds available for testing and contact tracing purposes. The Administration continues to seek avenues that will prioritize the use of federal funding given the demands on the state's General Fund resources.

The Administration concurs with the necessity of these changes to the enacted budget and will be approving these augmentations not sooner than 72 hours from the above date.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please call Jack Zwald, Principal Program Budget Analyst, at 916-445-6423.

KEELY MARTIN BOSLER

Director

By:



VIVEK VISWANATHAN

Chief Deputy Director

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