April 20, 2020

Greetings,

On April 10, 2020, Vice President Mike Pence, The White House Coronavirus Task Force, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar dispatched a letter to US hospitals instructing them to report COVID-19 response related data to the Federal Government. This directive listed a number of options for compliance, including allowing the State to report to the Federal Government on their behalf if they receive a written release from the State stating that the State will collect the data from the hospitals and take over Federal reporting responsibilities.

This letter should be considered a written release from the State stating that the State will collect the data from the hospitals and take over Federal reporting responsibilities. This selected option for reporting is fully endorsed the HHS/FEMA Region VI Regional Response Coordination Center Leadership and the US Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (HHS ASPR) Region VI Project Officer.

The New Mexico Department of Health has been reporting healthcare system data to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by way of the HHS Region VI Regional Coordination Center from the onset of the COVID-19 response. Much of this data is collected through hospital direct reporting in the EMResource system and some data is collected through surveys and direct contact. We have continued to add new data reporting categories as needed in order to maintain information sharing consistent with the evolving operational needs of the COVID-19 response. Our goal is to reduce duplication of effort and reporting burden by the hospitals, so they can focus on the mission of providing healthcare.

New Mexico hospitals who continue to participate in information sharing with NMDOH will continue to have this information reported on their behalf, consistent with the request for information from Vice President Mike Pence, The White House Coronavirus Task Force, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar. This reporting by NMDOH will meet the requirements of the Federal Government, provided that hospitals fully respond to requests for information from NMDOH timely.

Hospitals who are in need of additional access to EMResource, or who need to verify current access should contact sheran.kaplan-hicks@state.nm.us.

Thank you for the important work you and your staff are doing. We appreciate your partnership and applaud your dedication.

Sincerely,

Sherán Kaplan-Hicks
Healthcare Preparedness and Response Section Manager
Bureau of Health Emergency Management