

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date: August 20, 2020**

**To: State Finance Director**

**From: Bob Phillips, Executive Director, GuideSafe™ Testing**

**Re: Testing for Alabama and GuideSafe™ Program Progress Report as of July 31, 2020**

The GuideSafe™ Testing program made significant progress on a wide variety of activities in July.

We continued outreach and information sessions with colleges and universities across the state and entered into 28 MOU agreements with schools for entry and sentinel testing services. Throughout the month, we received student data files and updated our master student database, incorporating varied information including home residence, whether or not the student would live on campus, entry date, etc. This information allowed us to begin managing our “demand curve” whereby we’ve worked to provide access to testing appointments to students based on their “entry window” and to help balance testing capacity supply and demand, while also giving students a level of choice.

We sourced, negotiated contracts for and implemented two significant informatics solutions:

- laboratory information system software that coordinates communication of pooled laboratory testing results
- registration, scheduling, and resulting informatics platform through which all onsite testing is coordinate

We also entered into an agreement for a mail-home testing solution that allowed the program to offer a testing option to out of state students and those with unique campus entry requirements. In addition, we’ve contracted with a local logistics and operations management company to staff and operate our 13 geographically distributed test collection sites, to provide courier services for the delivery of samples to the UAB pathology lab, and to provide call center support services. Each of these vendors are in place to allow for the transition to sentinel and community testing programs, giving us a stable infrastructure to continue implementation of the program.

Beginning on July 23, we opened our first 2 collection sites, in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, as pilot locations to begin onsite testing. These sites continued collecting samples through the end of the month and into August.

The UAB Pathology Department hired additional staff, sourced supplies and reagents, and did extensive testing in preparation for the ramp up to full daily testing capacity.

We've initiated a comprehensive communication program, including paid advertising, regular informational newsletters and zoom meetings, social media, and guidance to participating schools on methods to amplify messaging and increase student participation. We've also made presentations to college leadership, the colleges' student affairs and student health leaders, and to the program Steering committee.

All of these activities continue and evolve as we've moved into August and full-scale student entry testing.