

# AACC's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Through published research, public policy initiatives, close contact with and detailed input from AACC members and the global lab community, the association has explained the intricacies of COVID-19 testing, worked continually to ensure that labs have all the resources needed to perform testing promptly and reliably, and ensure that federal rules and regulations support access to testing.

## Advocacy

AACC has engaged lawmakers and federal health officials on a number of topics, ranging from calling on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to permit qualified laboratories to build and utilize laboratory developed tests for SARS-CoV-2, to urging the federal government to resolve supply chain issues hampering this testing, to providing feedback to Congress on preparations to prevent future pandemics. The association produced a [virtual congressional briefing](#) to inform legislative staff on the importance of laboratory developed tests in diagnosing COVID-19.

## Media Engagement

AACC has issued many press releases and statements on the association's positions, actions and published research involving COVID-19. The drumbeat of these efforts has positioned AACC as a reliable source of information on COVID-19 testing in at least 100 [articles and TV segments](#). AACC Past President Carmen Wiley and President David Grenache have explained COVID-19 testing and spoken out on testing issues in numerous broadcast and print reports. The association's video series aimed at educating the public about COVID-19 testing, [Making Sense of Coronavirus Testing](#), has had more than 800,000 views.

## Frontline Insight

In March, AACC launched a [directory of U.S. and international clinical laboratories](#) that are, or will be, performing testing for SARS-CoV-2. This has been instrumental in linking clinical laboratories with prescribing physicians and public health officials. Upon request, AACC has supplied the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments with directory participants to support their COVID-19 responses.

AACC conducts regular surveys of these laboratories to gain insight into the obstacles they face with regards to COVID-19 testing. The association has used the survey results to update the White House Coronavirus Taskforce and federal agencies and advocate for resources to support them.

## February

- AACC calls on the FDA to permit qualified laboratories to build and utilize LDTs to detect SARS-CoV-2 and diagnose COVID-19.

## March

- AACC asserts the VALID Act will decrease patient access to medical tests and urges Congress not to act until its impact can be thoroughly evaluated.

## April

- AACC issues a statement emphasizing need for FDA to regulate poorly performing commercial COVID-19 tests
- AACC urges Coronavirus Task Force to address the critical supply needs of America's clinical laboratories

## May

- AACC issues a statement with recommendations for SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing

## June

- AACC shares preliminary results of the association's survey of clinical laboratories with Admiral Brett Giroir.
- AACC comments on Senate HELP's white paper: "Preparing for the Next Pandemic"

## July

- AACC urges HHS to renew public health emergency declaration
- AACC is invited to participate in the National Testing Implementation Forum

## August

- AACC welcomes HHS decision that FDA cannot regulate LDTs without notice-and-comment

## September

- AACC calls on Congress to provide federal funding to expand clinical laboratory training programs.

## October

- AACC releases virtual congressional briefing on the importance of laboratory developed tests in diagnosing COVID-19