



Testing Scale Up Proposal to Save Lives and Livelihoods Affected by COVID-19

Monterey County Health Department and COVID-19
Collaborative

Board of Supervisors 4/7/21

Collaborative – Testing
Group Develops Strategy



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graph TD; A[Collaborative – Testing Group Develops Strategy] --> B[Present to BOS (3/9/21)]; B --> C[Testing WG Refines Strategy]; C --> D[Present Testing Strategy to BOS and Covid Collaborative]; D --> E[All Partners Implement Strategy];
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The diagram is a vertical flowchart with five steps, each in a colored box. The boxes are connected by downward-pointing arrows. The colors of the boxes are orange, grey, yellow, blue, and green from top to bottom. The arrows are light red, light grey, light yellow, and light blue respectively.

Present to BOS (3/9/21)

Testing WG Refines Strategy

Present Testing Strategy to
BOS and Covid Collaborative

All Partners Implement
Strategy

Testing Strategy Development

Science and Best Practices Advisory Group Monterey County COVID- 19 Collaborative

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Background

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Co-chair; Epidemiologist; Faculty Family Physician NMC;
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Epidemiologist, Professor, Center for Environmental Research
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Infectious Disease Physician; Medical Director, SVMH

Infectious Disease Physician; Medical Director, Infection
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Testing Work Group Monterey County COVID-19 Collaborative

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Epidemiologist; Professor, Center for Environmental
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Epidemiologist; Faculty Family Physician NMC; Division of
Infectious Disease, UCLA

Covid-19 testing numbers dropped in the US -- here's why testing still matters

By Naomi Thomas and Deidre McPhillips, CNN

🕒 Updated 7:11 AM ET, Fri March 5, 2021

Testing Scale Up is Still Needed

Threats

- COVID-19 fatigue
- Vaccine gaps
- New variants
- Re-infection
- Re-opening, tourism and migration

Testing

Benefits: Save Lives and Livelihoods

Directly reduces transmission

Identify infectious individuals and start 'Breaking the Chain' actions – CHWs, isolation, contact tracing, quarantine

Improved targeting and monitoring of COVID-19 strategies

Allows surveillance for variants that might affect treatment and vaccine effectiveness

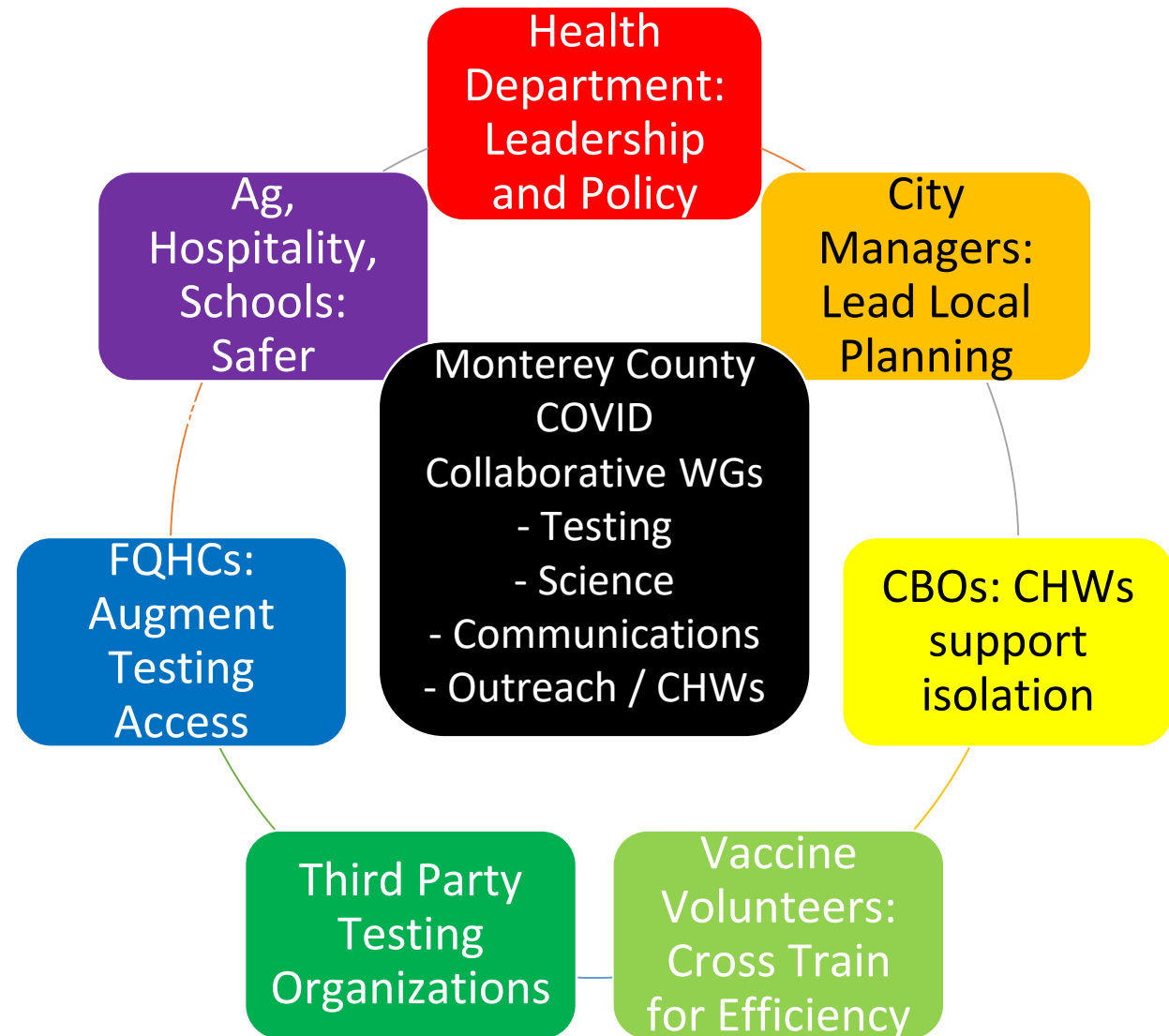
Better understanding of our epidemic

Identify populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19

Ensure *safe and sustainable* re-opening of schools and businesses

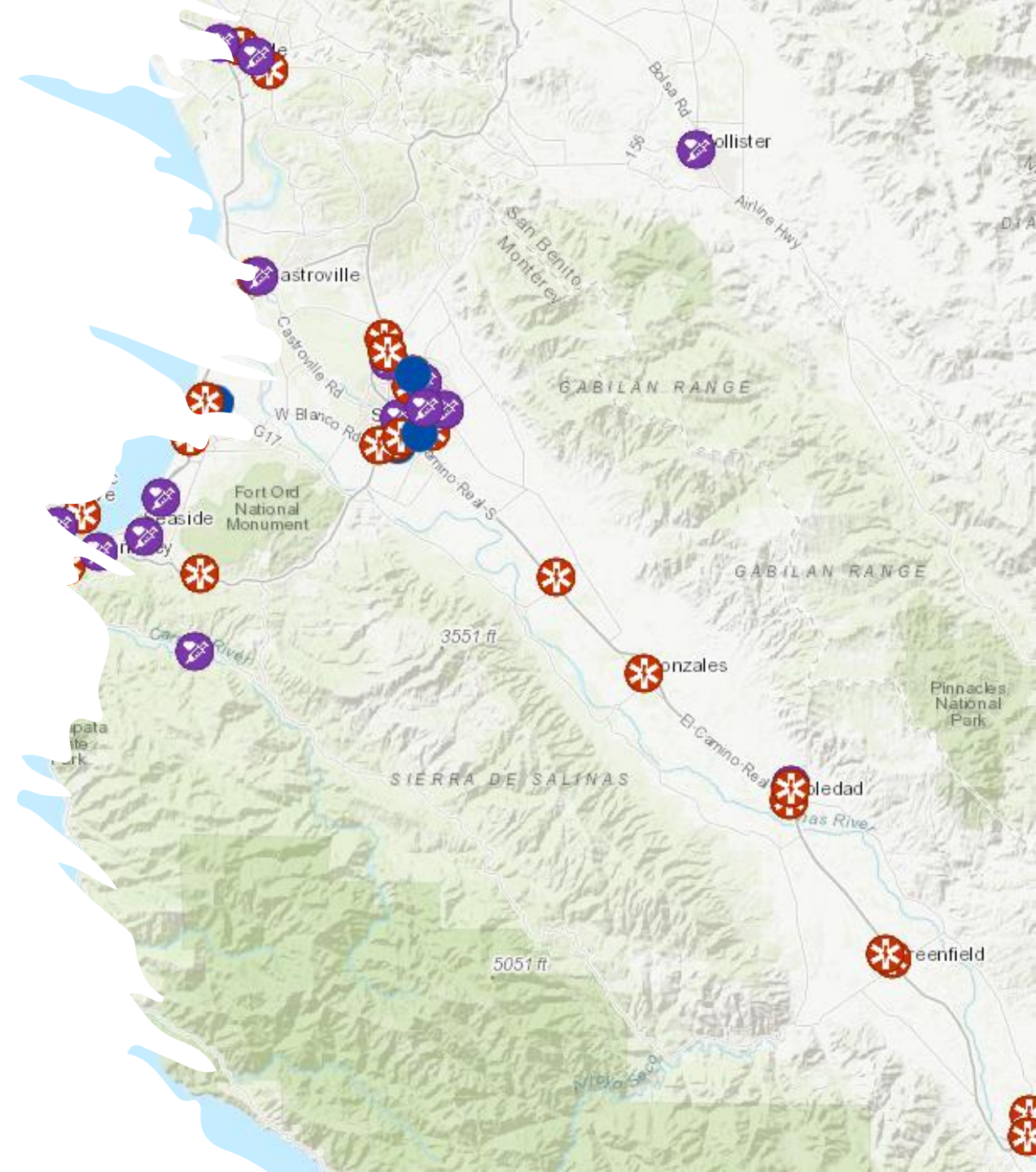
1. Coordinate Testing Efforts

Bring	Bring together and align partner agency efforts
Outline	Outline gaps and strengths
Coordinate	Coordinate and implement new strategies
Track	Track costs and resources
Evaluate	Evaluate progress



2. Build on Existing Capacity

- Healthcare-based screening
- Workplace screening
- Community-based testing
- Genomic surveillance- Sequencing for variants





3. Expand Testing in Workplace

Workplace Testing

- Rapid antigen testing through California Department of Public Health program
- Coordinated with employers to bring testing to employees
- No cost to employees
- User friendly system – no or low cost to employer
- **Regular testing cadence**

4. Expand Testing in Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Testing

- Partner with City Managers, Ag, Hospitality, Chambers of Commerce, and others
- Reduce access barriers at existing fixed testing sites
- Engage vendors and add new testing sites in high priority neighborhoods or where they work
- Offer testing without appointment and at times/days/locations that accommodate different work schedules



A UCSF partnership brought COVID-19 testing to the Akoma Farmer's Market next to Eastmont Mall in Oakland on Sept. 9. The testing in the Oakland community is scheduled to return Sept. 26 and 27 to the La Clínica de La Raza parking lot on 35th Avenue and East 12th Street. *Photo by Maurice Ramirez*

5. Focus Testing

Use data to identify potential locations for additional testing sites

- **ZIP codes with higher case and test positivity rates combined with lower testing rates**
- **Neighborhoods with disproportionately higher barriers to accessing health care and testing services**

Engage the community to inform the process

ZIP Code	February Test Positivity Rate (%)
93930	26.9%
93905	25.8%
95012	24.5%
93926	24.0%
93927	23.0%
95039	21.8%
93960	20.0%
93906	19.6%
93901	17.3%
93925	16.7%
93954	16.7%
93955	16.0%



6. Increase Demand

Develop and implement campaign to:

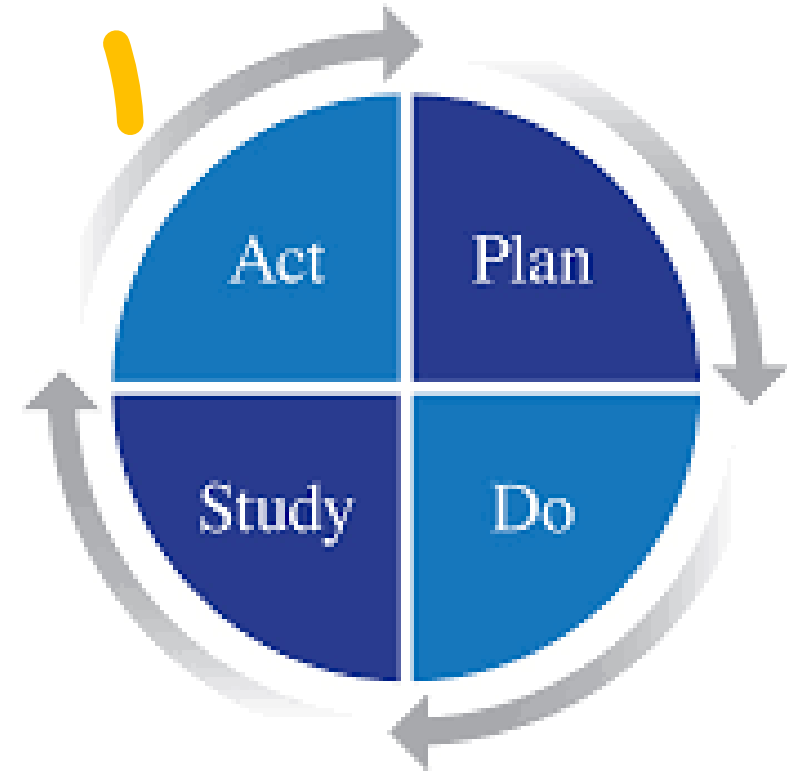
- Reduce testing stigma
- Explain why testing is important
- Guide people to reliable and trusted information about testing and other COVID-19 prevention strategies

Engage VIDA project, 2-1-1, and other partners to share messages

7. Evaluate Progress

Within limitations of available data:

1. Set achievable testing targets
2. Review testing data weekly
3. Review test positivity rates bi-weekly
4. Elicit feedback from community
5. Evaluate demographics to assure we are reaching most at-risk community
6. Adjust testing venue locations and outreach strategies monthly or as needed more frequently based on data and community feedback



Proposed Testing Targets

Monterey County's current testing rate is 267.0 per 100,000 population (7-day average with 7-day lag excluding state inmates).

Utilizing California Blueprint for a Safer Economy Framework	Tier 1 (Widespread)	Tier 2 (Substantial)	Tier 3 (Moderate)	Tier 4 (Minimal)
Target Testing Rate for Monterey County (7-day average with 7-day lag excluding state inmates)	1,500 tests per 100,000 population	1,000 tests per 100,000 population	750 tests per 100,000	500 tests per 100,000
Weekly Testing Target for Monterey County	6,731	4,488	3,366	2,244

In case of a severe surge, the Testing Work Group may revisit the Purple Tier weekly testing target

Resources and Funding

Funding for:

1. Testing materials, processing, transport, PPE and staffing
 - a. Optum (state sites) - mostly free, contingent on adequate supply
 - b. Vendor - “free” (bill insurance companies, need volume)
 - c. School-based testing - staffing and some supply costs
 - d. Supplemental testing services likely needed
2. Incentives – Debit cards or food
3. Call center support - anticipate additional funds may be needed
4. Increase in variant testing
5. Communication campaign for need to increase testing

Already funded:

1. Project manager and coordinator
2. Communications and outreach (need for augmentation)

Budget

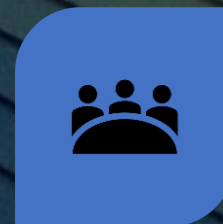
Total Estimated Budget: \$951,908 / Funds Requested \$735,608

1. Strategy Element			
a. Testing materials, processing, transport, PPE, staffing	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000
b. PCR tests to track variants (\$3,605 per run, 5 runs/month & 12 months)	\$216,300	\$216,300	\$0
2. Incentives	\$293,800	\$0	\$293,800
3. Call Center Support	\$41,808	\$0	\$41,808
Totals	\$951,908	\$216,300	\$735,608

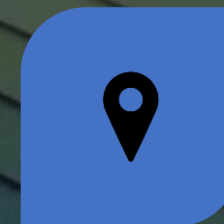
Next Steps



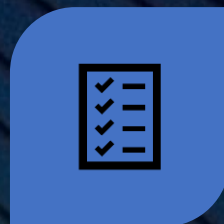
SECURE FUNDING
FOR NEEDED
RESOURCES



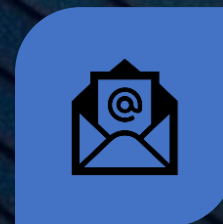
COORDINATE AND
START EMPLOYER
AND COMMUNITY-
SITE TESTING



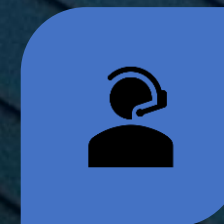
COORDINATE
LOCATION OF NEW
TESTING SITES WITH
VENDOR



DESIGN AND
IMPLEMENT
OUTREACH
APPROACH



DEVELOP A
COMMUNICATION
CAMPAIGN



SUPPORT
INFORMATION
SYSTEM