



**COVID-19 STATE REPORTING CERTIFICATION**

October 15, 2020

Tricia N. Blocher  
Deputy Director  
Emergency Preparedness Office  
California Department of Public Health

Dear Ms. Blocher,

This letter certifies that the **State of California** is reporting hospital capacity and utilization data for hospitals in the state using one of the approved reporting options to report COVID-19 information to the federal government at the required frequency and required amount of detail.

Data on daily hospital capacity and utilization are used for the national public health emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including for prioritization and allocation of critical resources across the Nation. These data and resulting analyses support the White House Coronavirus Task Force, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Response Coordination Center.

Per Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar's [Guidance for Hospital Reporting and FAQs](#), states may assume federal reporting responsibilities from hospitals in their jurisdiction to collect COVID-19 data to reduce reporting burden for the hospitals.

California has been certified as reporting all of the required fields on behalf of hospitals. This letter authorizes the State of California to relieve individual hospitals in their area of reporting the required COVID-19 data directly to the federal government. This release from federal reporting requirements does not affect requirements for facilities to adhere to local and state public health reporting requirements, including reporting outbreaks to public health authorities where mandated.

Please note this certificate and any waivers that result from it are conditional upon continued compliance to submit the required data from hospitals in the state. If the reporting frequency, completeness of data elements or completeness of reporting hospitals no longer meet the stated levels of reporting this certification and any associated waivers may be revoked.

Submitted COVID-19 data will be managed and consolidated into HHS' COVID-19 tracking system, HHS Protect. Access to HHS Protect will be provided to States for viewing available data.

Sincerely,

*Brad Austin for:*

Mark D. Young  
Regional Administrator