From: williamabhouse@yahoo.com
To: bbethune@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Subject: [External]We Have a Coronavirus Test, Let Us Use It!
Date: Sunday, June 14, 2020 7:56:25 PM

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It is not reasonable to neglect Mass Testing for Coronavirus in the middle of a pandemic

Compare the cost of Mass Testing,
To the cost of Mass Economic disruption, hospitalization and death

An average treatment for the covid virus costs 40,000 dollars,
three times the yearly sub-poverty federal minimum wage salary

The ONLY way to reopen the Economy safely is with Mass Testing,
AND retesting until this pandemic is OVER

Headline: "We have a Coronavirus test, Let us use it!"
WSJ Option section 4/15/2020 by Jack Lipton and Caryl Sortwell, MSU

Bio-Rad Receives FDA Emergency Use Authorization for Droplet Digital PCR SARS-CoV-2 Test Kit
Bio-Rad.com Newsroom 5/4/2020

HERCULES, Calif. –Bio-Rad Laboratories Inc. (NYSE: BIO and BIOb), a global leader of life science research and clinical diagnostic products, today announced that its SARS-CoV-2 Droplet Digital PCR (ddPCR) test kit has been granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The SARS-CoV-2 Droplet Digital PCR (ddPCR) test runs on Bio-Rad's QX200 and QXDx ddPCR systems.

...Thousands of hospitals and molecular testing labs in the U.S. and around the world have Bio-Rad's QX200 and QXDx ddPCR systems installed and have the capacity to perform SARS-CoV-2 ddPCR testing. The SARS-CoV-2 ddPCR test represents the latest addition to Bio-Rad's product offerings related to COVID-19. This is the second EUA Bio-Rad has been granted for COVID-19. Last week, the company received an EUA for a serology test to detect antibodies to the virus.

"After FDA authorizes at-home saliva test for Covid-19,
startups begin selling test kits" Medcitynews Headline, 5/14/2020

The FDA gave an emergency use authorization for the first saliva-based Covid-19 test developed by RUCDR Infinite Biologics. Now, startups are once again trying their hand at selling test kits.

Of course, there are still some limitations to at-home testing. The FDA has said only patients with symptoms should use the saliva-based test [because of supply issues]. (read full article)

But the Covid Virus has an incubation period of around 14 days where asymptomatic people can spread the disease, so weekly testing is the ONLY way to stop exponential spread while opening the economy

Paid sick leave for some is far preferable to Universal Unemployment for many

In New Jersey, the test is available for between $65 and $100.

Considering the average cost of one treatment of the Covid virus is 40,000 dollars, between 400 and 600 people could be tested at the same price while stopping the spread

The preservative in the Rutgers test is "a secret sauce" made by a Utah-based partner, Spectrum

Solutions. The ingredients are easily available and unlikely to pose supply problems.

A study led by the Yale School of Public Health found that saliva samples taken from just inside the mouth provided greater detection sensitivity and consistency throughout the course of an infection than the broadly recommended nasopharyngeal (NP) approach. The study also concluded that there was less variability in results with the self-sample collection of saliva.

Switching to saliva testing would have many advantages over taking deep nasal samples Saliva testing requires far fewer materials, and thus would be more immune to the supply chain problems that have hampered efforts to expand COVID-19 testing through deep nasal swab

There wouldn't be a shortage of things to collect the saliva sample in, because there are so many options that are possible. Health care workers also would need to wear less personal protective equipment when taking a saliva sample compared with a nasopharyngeal swab

The only silver bullet we have now to stop the spread of the virus is testing, contact tracing and isolation.
That's the proven way to stop the virus as seen in South Korea.
We've lost lives, time and trillions and have not done step one.

We need to expedite Mass Testing NOW

Academic labs across the Nation utilize droplet digital PCR tests routinely
*** doesn't use same reagents, uses more readily available reagents**
*** 50 times higher accuracy**
*** 10,000 academic labs SIT IDLE, potential of 5 to 10 million tests**
*** STATES MUST STEP UP to expand labs to test WEEKLY!**
*** 20 Million tests are needed a day to Test America WEEKLY**
according to a Harvard Study

“The US needs to do 20 million tests a day to reopen safely,
according to a new plan” MIT Technology Review, 4/20/2020

...The report, produced by 45 cross-disciplinary experts assembled by Harvard University’s Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, says we need to be doing 5 million tests a day by early June in order to start reopening the country, increasing to 20 million by midsummer to fully end the shutdown. From the start, the World Health Organization has said the only way to beat the virus is to "test, test, test."

*** Mass testing and retesting stops exponential spread with each positive**
*** Contact tracing is a direct line to mass positives**
*** Target hotspots as testing is expanded**

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From City Pulse article April 28:
MSU researchers 'MacGyver' new COVID-19 test, but wait for green light

...A MSU research team has adapted equipment they were using to study Parkinson's disease to "MacGyver" aCOVID-19 test that's 50 times more sensitive than most of the tests now in use.

The test can pick up very small viral loads, avoiding the dreaded false negative that allows infected people to go on their merry way, spreading the virus.

...But research labs like MSU's Translational Neuroscience Department, where the new test was developed, don't have the accreditation to do clinical work, and need an emergency go-ahead to do clinical testing.

...if even one-tenth of the nation's academic labs joined the clinical effort, "we could test an additional 500,000 to 1 million samples a day."

...Patterson was intrigued to learn that a Chinese research team had adapted a "droplet digital PCR," a sensitive device capable of probing genetic material in a variety of tests, to develop a more accurate test for the COVID-19 virus.

...Patterson was already using the machine in his research on Parkinson's disease

..."We were basically taking everything we already know how to do, and using it to measure this virus's RNA as opposed to the RNA we usually measure."

...The droplet digital PCR looks like a compact humidifier, and with good reason. Both devices dole out delicate droplets. According to the manufacturer's website, a "singulator" carefully "sips" 20,000 tiny drops from a sample and sends them in single file past an optical detector. Each droplet is designated positive or negative for the presence of the target RN , in this case, the genetic signature of COVID-19.

Patterson called the digital droplet PCR the "Cadillac" of genetic testing equipment and compared its more common counterpart, the "real time PCR," to a Chevy Malibu.

...Digital droplet PCRs are used in [around 10,000] labs across the United States.

...the genetic sensitivity of the droplet digital PCR makes it extra valuable when tracking a virus that doesn't always cause symptoms. Standard tests give a false negative from 20 to 30 percent of the time, according to an MSU study.

"This technique would be good for monitoring the progression of the disease," Patterson said. "You can actually see when the viral load is completely gone, rather than when it becomes undetectable by the less sensitive equipment."

...Saliva tests have the exciting potential to finally get the nation on top of the massive task of tracking the COVID-19 virus, making testing easy and widespread at home and work.

..."Our big hurdle right now is the certification to go through and offer this as a diagnostic test," Patterson said. "Right now our hands are a bit tied. All we can do is run tests in a research project capacity because we're not a clinical lab."

MSU's translational neuroscience lab isn't the only academic lab itching to join the fight against COVID-19.

"We're trying to do everything we can do to be up and running if we do get approved, or if something changes, but there's a lot of labs right now that are shut down and everything's gone cold right now," Patterson said.

Lipton is working overtime on that logjam, making his case in national media and lobbying lawmakers. "We do this kind of test, this PCR test, all the time," Lipton told Fox News last week. "And there are thousands of labs across the country that could do the same thing with high rigor, reproducibility and confidence."

Patterson hopes the pent-up energy and expertise of academic labs around the nation can be freed to do clinical tests, but he's not sure it will happen soon. In addition to state legislation, the federal FDA would have to waive the requirement that a lab has to be accredited by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, or CLIA, to do diagnostic clinical testing.

"...it's hard to tell right now what the executive branch is going to do, which is the kindest thing I can possibly say," Patterson said. "We've been very good at McGyver-ing things in the past with minimal

supplies. We can adapt. We can improvise. We worked out a COVID test in a week. I'm not saying we shouldn't be regulated. I'm just saying, deputize us to do work that there aren't enough hands for right now." (see full article)

Before shutting down the economy, we were on a path to have 500,000 deaths by October, exceeding the death toll of the Civil War or the Spanish flu
Now we are reopening.
To build public trust we must do everything we can to achieve Mass Testing NOW

"Models shift to predict dramatically more U.S. deaths as states relax social distancing" Politico Headline, 5/4/2020

As President Trump presses states to reopen their economies, his administration is privately projecting a steady rise in coronavirus infections and deaths over the next several weeks, reaching about 3,000 daily deaths on June 1, nearly double the current level.

"This 'study' considered zero mitigation, meaning it was conducted as though no federal guidelines were in place, no contact tracing, no expansion of testing, while removing all shelter in place protocols laid out in the phased approach of the Opening Up America Again guidelines for individuals with co-morbidities." (read full article)

Unfortunately, we are engaged in an experiment on the American people to see how reopening America without Mass Testing will look in June

Vaccines and Treatment are not guaranteed, and even if possible will take months to years, as current vaccines for flu have only a 50% participation rate, a 50% effectiveness rate, and mass production will still be an issue.

To dramatically speed up the timeline for a vaccine will also require ignoring standard proper TESTING

How One Firm's Covid-19 Tests Help Control The Virus In South Korea
Forbes, Apr 5, 2020

..."Right now we are stopping everything else and putting all our effort into producing the kits," Chun says. "The demand from governments and medical agencies has been overwhelming. We could potentially supply as much as 3 million test kits per week.

But if there is still a shortage, we could provide the expertise [for others] to develop the kit for free. We have that intention," he says. "The virus shouldn’t spread due to limitations in testing."...

We need WARP SPEED on Mass Testing NOW, not more distractions and denial

STATES should call special sessions NOW and prepare for the future as the Republican Administration Fails to Act on Mass Testing and Fails to be Held Accountable

STATES can pass a temporary surcharge tax on the wealthy who got Republican Tax Cuts for the past 40 years that have neglected our infrastructure, put us in debt and created wealth inequality, as they demand people go back to work for sub poverty wages, many without even health care, in the middle of a pandemic without a Covid test.

STATES need to build up the infrastructure and supplies we the people need to fight this pandemic because the Republican Federal Government is treacherously derelict in it's duty as it aborts America to debt, poverty, pollution, prisons and the pandemic without Mass Testing

This is also the best time in a Century to try and stamp out the flu that yearly kills 40 to 60 thousand, with around 600,000 hospitalizations and 20 million infected even with a vaccine available. The same infrastructure and supplies are needed to stamp out the flu which if combined with an unobstructed Covid

Pandemic would truly be the darkest winter in modern American history

According to the CDC, the same kinds of Molecular tests used for flu have a sensitivity in the range of 90-95%.

The DARKNESS is the LACK OF TESTING,
Covid is a whistleblower even the Republicans can not remove without TESTING

STATES have spent decades wasting lives and billions building a prison industry; injecting violence, poverty and racism into society with the unreasonable culture war on drugs, Mass Testing as they neglect harm reduction and health care.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord:
though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
Isaiah 1:18

(if we are reasonable)

STATES spare no expense to protect property during the riots, what about protecting humanity from coronavirus and injustice?

STATES CAN ACT on this substantive issue of a PANDEMIC to defend humanity for a change with the only tool we have: TESTING!

If STATES don't step up they are part of the problem. Expecting the Republican Party to step up is a fools errand. Don't be fooled AGAIN, Republicans have not acted in the spirit of what is needed, what is possible, for decades

Make Politics the Art of the Possible Again
For a More Perfect Union

For a Robust Health Care Infrastructure and Economy:

* We need Universal Sick Leave so people don't go to work sick
* We need to make sure FOOD is not left to ROT, and redistributed to those in need
* We need Universal Health Care to have a robust Health Care Defense
* We need Universal College and trade schools for a prosperous future
* WE need Living Wages for Families to better take care for themselves
The number one determining factor in educational outcomes is POVERTY
* Lift the burden of disease and poverty from future generations with progressive tax rates that reduce wealth inequality and build the infrastructure of prosperity
* We need Automated Transportation Infrastructure
* We need Clean Energy Infrastructure
* We need to adopt The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing that can reduce killings by police up to 72%,
As detailed by UseofForceProject.org and joincampaignzero.org
* We need to end the mass criminalization of non-violent people
* We need to abolish the unreasonable War on Drugs,
In favor of harm reduction, health care and respect of unalienable human rights
* We need to ABOLISH voter disenfranchisement,
voter disenfranchisement is contrary to the very ideal of a self-correcting democracy
* We need humane immigration reform that respects unalienable human rights

* And We Need Universal Voter Registration and Vote by Mail
to safely participate in our Democracy and hopefully elect more responsible leadership

The current Republican Federal Government is obstructing testing now as Republicans have obstructed health care for decades. It's up to the STATES to defend America from the virus and the Republican TREASON that is the real pandemic.
Health Care is a matter of National Defense if anything is

Blaming Republicans IS NOT A SOLUTION, State Action is Required.

While many clinical studies show the effectiveness of FACE MASKS, the pandemic in Asia where wearing face masks is prevalent shows that Testing, Contact tracing, social distancing and isolation are still necessary to stop the exponential spread

N-95 masks are the only safe masks for self-protection, but do not protect others due to exhalation valves
Other face coverings, while necessary and can reduce the spread, still leak and infect others

Lacking testing, wearing face masks and social distancing are the only effective action we have now, but still only flatten the curve at best while disrupting the economy with or without shut down orders
Hiding your face, like lack of testing, hides the truth

Science is the Fact Based Search for the Truth that will Set Us Free from Ignorance

FAITH without **WORKS** is **DEAD**

The Defense Authorization Act without the Federal Government Mass producing Tests and implementing Mass Testing is **DEATH**

Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom:
She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned;
they did not help the poor and needy.
Ezekiel 16:49

Some people neglect their responsibility and say this is God's Judgement,
they say we leave it up to God

Jesus said, "YE ARE GODS"

God in the Hebrew has 3 meanings:
1. God is Love, the highest spiritual principle,
as in Love thy Neighbor as Thyself
2. God is Nature, and Nature has a discoverable factual basis
We are the Universe seeking to discover it's self
3. God is a Government Magistrate
The word Magistrate and Magician come from the word Magi

Yes, you can do Magic, the kind of magic based on facts and developed through Science, like the magic that enables me to send this message, or to create vaccines, treatments or tests

The motto of the Magi was:
Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds

Jesus said greater works than these **YOU WILL DO**

Jesus was known as The Great Physician

States Must Act
The Federal Government is being held hostage by the Republican Traitors of Humanity
The Federal Government is being held hostage by the Republican Traitors of Truth and Justice
The Federal Government is being held hostage by the Republican Traitors of Democracy

The Republican Party has hung Truth, Love and Justice
On a Cross of Lies, Bigotry and Corruption

States can pass a temporary surcharge on the wealthy who got Republican Tax Cuts, and Defend the American People with Mass Testing Infrastructure

If not Us, Who?
If now Now, When?
We are the one's we're waiting on!
- President Barack Obama

We do not come here to fear the future,
We came here to Shape the Future!
- President Barack Obama

FDR passed a 90% top tax rate during the Great Depression
Republicans called FDR a socialist,
Everyone else calls them the Greatest Generation

This is not a debate about socialism or capitalism
This is about doing what it takes to cure the pandemic,
MASS TESTING NOW!

GOD IS LOVE thy Neighbor as thyself,
with economic justice,
with environmental protection,
with civil liberties,
with universal voting rights

Love is the path to Prosperity

We need to prevent the spread as much as possible to buy time for treatments and vaccines to be developed

And again, treatments and vaccines at this point are aspirational, not certain

The only silver bullet we have now to stop the spread of the virus is testing, contact tracing and isolation.
That's the proven way to stop the virus as seen in South Korea.
We've lost lives, time and trillions and have not done step one.

This Pandemic will not be over until we do what it takes, made worse by our lack of action thus far

Yes We Can, Si Se Puede,
but will we?

and if you listen very hard,
the tune will come to you at last,
when ALL ARE ONE,
and ONE IS ALL,
to be a rock and not to roll
- stairway to heaven