How Local Health Departments Are Responding to COVID-19

Local health departments have been working tirelessly to combat the current global pandemic since early 2020. They remain a trusted source within communities, providing the essential services that are needed to protect the health and well-being of residents.

1. Testing and Contact Tracing
2. Vaccine Coordination and Administration
3. Health Data Surveillance/Monitoring
4. Educating the Public and Allaying Concerns
5. Coordinating with Health Care Providers and Pharmacies
6. Working with Local Leaders, Schools, and Businesses

Doing All of This Despite a Thinning Public Health Workforce

20% of workforce capacity cut since 2008
HOW SHOULD CONGRESS HELP?

1. **Continued Funding for Mitigation Activities**, including contact tracing, testing, and vaccine distribution with a requirement for equitable distribution of funds to local health departments.

2. **Public Tracking of Disbursement of Federal COVID-19 Response Funds** down to the local health department level.

3. **Ensure Inclusion of Local Health Department Expertise** in state and federal response planning; ensure full visibility and consultation with local health departments on activities in their borders.

4. **Invest in the Public Health Workforce** through the creation of a public health loan repayment program.

5. **Adopt Long-Term, Sustainable Funding Support** for public health infrastructure, including data modernization.