

## Edghill, Ryan

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**From:** Drummond, Tyler <Tyler.Drummond@co.galveston.tx.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:02 PM  
**To:** Tafuri, Scott; chief@bayouvista.us; Brent Spier; 'Gregory Trantham'; Hunt, Derek (EMS Director/Co-EMC); 'Brian Mansfield'; Mark Morgan; Wilmon C. Smith; Walter Gant; shutchison@ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us; Charlene Warren; Edghill, Ryan; 'Philip Meadows'; 'Thomas Munoz'; tikiemc@comcast.net; Mark.Williams@senate.texas.gov; Terri Gale; danielskonyha@yahoo.com; kurt.otten.cls@gmail.com; jmasters@ci.dickinson.tx.us; mayor@friendswood.com; Jim Yarbrough; rstricklind@cityofhitchcock.org; stevekspicer@aol.com; b.hocking@ci.la-marque.tx.us; mayor@ci.santa-fe.tx.us; tikimayor@comcast.net; mdoyle@texascitytx.gov; Hallisey, Pat; cheard@ci.dickinson.tx.us; fwdcity@friendswood.com; Brian Maxwell; Marie Gelles; c.buttler@cityoflamarque.org; Baumgartner, John; Liechty, Linda  
**Cc:** Henry, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: CARES Act Fund Transfer Request  
**Importance:** High

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Following up on our conference call earlier this morning, below is the additional information that was requested:

### **TESTING:**

Galveston County is currently spending about \$50K per week for public testing at UTMB. That cost will approximately double starting tomorrow to \$105K. which is not sustainable without your financial support:

- 100 Nasal Swab Tests/day @ \$100/test – cap at 500 tests per week (\$50K/wk)
- 200 Antibody Tests/day @ \$55/test – cap at 1,000 tests per week (\$55K/wk)

Presently, testing has only been open to residents of the 13 municipalities in Galveston County along with residents of the unincorporated areas in Galveston County are eligible to receive Free testing.

We would like to continue and further expand testing with UTMB, but can only financially continue doing so if the 13 municipalities partner with the county in sharing costs. Here is what we are anticipating to do with expanded testing:

- Increase to 150 Nasal Swab Tests/day (750 tests per week) (\$75,000/wk)
- Stay at 200 Antibody Tests/day (1,000 tests per week) (\$55K/wk)
- New Weekly Cost for Public Testing – \$130,000

We will expand testing eligibility to all employees of any political subdivision within Galveston County and employees of businesses within Galveston County. Essentially, anyone who works or lives in Galveston County can be eligible for the free testing.

Based on the arrangement we have for testing right now, UTMB is screening for insurance. The CARES Act required all public and private insurers to cover testing for free – no money out of pocket or financial obligation for the insured. The funds we are providing to UTMB are being used by people who don't have insurance coverage. A lot of people who lost their jobs also ended up losing insurance coverage. We will continue this practice of having UTMB screen for insurance so we can make sure those without coverage have access to testing.

Using July 1, 2020 as a start date, we estimate a total of 27 weeks bringing us through the end of the 2020 calendar year. At a burn rate of \$130,000 per week, we anticipate testing to cost **\$3,510,000 over the next 6 months**. This number does not include the months of May and June where the county has already committed to pay for testing with UTMB.

**GALVESTON COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT**

Before we can increase testing capacity, we must increase staffing and resources at the Galveston County Health District (GCHD). They have seen a large influx in demand due to the current increase in cases and need additional staff and resources to address this as businesses reopen and activities start back up in the community. When we increase testing capacity, this will also increase the demand and necessity of increased staff at the GCHD to handle the increased volume.

Currently, the GCHD is in need of at least 6 additional staff – not including what they will need when we increase testing capacity.

- **Nursing Staff**
  - o Needed for follow-up and monitoring of active positive patients in self quarantine
  - o GCHD is in current need of 2 additional staff – we anticipate possibly needing another 2-4 employees over the next 6 months.
  
- **Epidemiologists**
  - o Needed for initial contact and investigations of positive patients as well as following up with close contacts to attempt to isolate the spread of COVID-19 in the community.
  - o GCHD is in current need of 2 additional staff – we anticipate possibly needing another 2-4 employees over the next 6 months.
  
- **Business Taskforce**
  - o Needed to assist local businesses with how to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in their business as well as how to deal with a positive worker or guest. This will also be necessary when we make testing open and available to people who work in the county.
  - o GCHD is in current need of 2 staff to start addressing the needs of the business community in the county – the most likely could grow into needing an additional 2 staff members based on business community demand.

We’re planning to transfer \$500K to the Galveston County Health District to assist in paying for additional staffing and program resources as needed. Please note: We CANNOT expand testing without exponentially expanding the Health District staffing – there is no way for their present staff to keep up with current growth let alone new growth from expanded testing.

Galveston County’s request of 18% of the 13 municipalities CARES Act allocation only accounts for **\$3,002,749**.

Galveston County portion of the CARES Act was \$2.3M – of which we are committing over 56% (\$1.3M) to expanded public testing and assisting the GCHD with their needs.

Total 18% share from Galveston County Cities	\$3,002,749
Total Contribution from Galveston County	\$1,300,000
<b><u>Total Funding Available</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,302,749</u></b>
Countywide Testing thru End of 2020	\$3,510,000
GCHD Staffing & Resources	\$500,000
<b><u>Total Anticipated Costs</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,010,000</u></b>
Leftover for Unanticipated Needs	\$292,749

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**TYLER DRUMMOND** | Chief of Staff

County Judge Mark Henry | 722 Moody Ave. | Galveston, TX 77550

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**From:** Tafuri, Scott <Scott.Tafuri@co.galveston.tx.us>

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 3:08 PM

**To:** chief@bayouvista.us; Brent Spier <bspier@clearlakeshores-tx.gov>; 'Gregory Trantham' <gtrantham@ci.dickinson.tx.us>; Hunt, Derek (EMS Director/Co-EMC) <dhunt@ci.dickinson.tx.us>; 'Brian Mansfield' <bmansfield@ci.friendswood.tx.us>; Mark Morgan <mmorgan@galvestontx.gov>; Wilmon C. Smith <wsmith@hitchcockpd.com>; Walter Gant <wgant@kemah-tx.com>; shutchison@ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us; Charlene Warren <c.todaro@cityoflamarque.org>; Edghill, Ryan <ryan.edghill@leaguecitytx.gov>; 'Philip Meadows ' <philip@ci.santa-fe.tx.us>; 'Thomas Munoz' <tmunoz@texas-city-tx.org>; tikiemc@comcast.net; Mark.Williams@senate.texas.gov; Terri Gale <mayorgale@kemah-tx.com>; danielskonyha@yahoo.com; kurt.otten.cls@gmail.com; jmasters@ci.dickinson.tx.us; mayor@friendswood.com; Jim Yarbrough <JimYarbrough@GalvestonTX.Gov>; rstricklind@cityofhitchcock.org; stevekpicer@aol.com; b.hocking@ci.lamarque.tx.us; mayor@ci.santa-fe.tx.us; tikimayor@comcast.net; mdoyle@texascitytx.gov; pat.hallisey@leaguecitytx.gov; cheard@ci.dickinson.tx.us; fwdcity@friendswood.com; Brian Maxwell <BMaxwell@GalvestonTX.Gov>; Marie Gelles <mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org>; c.buttler@cityoflamarque.org; john.baumgartner@leaguecitytx.gov; Liechty, Linda <Linda.Liechty@co.galveston.tx.us>

**Cc:** Drummond, Tyler <Tyler.Drummond@co.galveston.tx.us>; Henry, Mark <Mark.Henry@co.galveston.tx.us>

**Subject:** CARES Act Fund Transfer Request

**Importance:** High

Dear Galveston County Mayor/City Manager/Emergency Manager,

Under the CARES Act, Congress authorized financial reimbursements to local governments for activities in response to COVID-19 as well as to cover eligible costs throughout the rest of the 2020 calendar year. The allocations that were awarded by the state have been designated to each of the 13 municipalities and to the county at \$55 per capita. The allocations have been awarded as follows:

<b>ENTITY:</b>	<b>POPULATION:</b>	<b>ALLOCATION:</b>
Galveston County	41,865	\$2,302,575
Bayou Vista	1,648	\$90,640
Clear Lake Shores	1,164	\$64,020
Dickinson	21,532	\$1,184,260
Friendswood	28,606	\$1,573,330
Galveston	49,638	\$2,730,090
Hitchcock	7,855	\$432,025
Jamaica Beach	1,080	\$59,400
Kemah	2,047	\$112,585
La Marque	16,817	\$924,935
League City	104,260	\$5,734,300
Santa Fe	13,624	\$749,320
Texas City	50,946	\$2,802,030
Tiki Island	1,057	\$58,135

Over the past 4 weeks, Galveston County allocated the majority of its CARES Act funds to increase nasal swab testing capacity for the public. Nasal swab testing is running at over \$200K per month with only 2,000 tests per month. Starting this Wednesday, the county is expanding the local testing capacity with UTMB and by offering antibody testing to the public. Those who receive a positive result from the antibody test will be required to then register to take the nasal swab test to confirm they do not presently have COVID-19. The costs for antibody tests is expected to come in around \$250K per month in addition to the \$200K per month being spent on nasal swab tests.

To date, Galveston County has accumulated about \$1M for eligible reimbursable expenses not including the testing costs mentioned above. Outside of reimbursing ourselves for funds spent on PPE and response over the past several months, Galveston County has a difference of \$1.3M in CARES Act funding available for the testing and other response activities.

The Galveston County Health District only received eligibility for \$500K from the CARES Act. The funding they received is to reimburse the district for the mass testing they conducted a few months back at the beginning of this epidemic along with reimbursable expenses for staffing, PPE, etc. That only leaves the district with a small percentage of CARES Act funds to spend on epidemiology, investigations, following-up on positive cases, mitigation response/support for businesses in the community, or any other activities necessary to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

We need to be prepared to be able to pay for public testing and to support response activities with our health district. Therefore, Galveston County would like to have the support from all of the local jurisdictions with making the following proposal:

With CARES Act funds being limited to what the money can be spent on and with the county and health district providing a countywide approach to testing and follow-up, we would like to find a way to continue paying for the activities currently being engaged in and have access to funding to expand our current response efforts and for future response activities if/when this epidemic necessitates it.

Judge Henry consulted with Chief Nimm Kidd of the Texas Department of Emergency Management, and was encouraged to have the county enter into an transfer agreement with all of our 13 municipalities. The transfer agreement will allow each community to allocate some of their CARES Act funds to pay for current and future countywide COVID-19 response. At this time, we are only requesting that you transfer at a rate of \$10 per capita. The proposed transfer request from each community would be the following:

<b>ENTITY:</b>	<b>POPULATION:</b>	<b>ALLOCATION:</b>
Bayou Vista	1,648	\$16,480
Clear Lake Shores	1,164	\$11,640
Dickinson	21,532	\$215,320
Friendswood	28,606	\$286,060
Galveston	49,638	\$496,380
Hitchcock	7,855	\$78,550
Jamaica Beach	1,080	\$10,800
Kemah	2,047	\$20,479
La Marque	16,817	\$168,170
League City	104,260	\$1,042,600
Santa Fe	13,624	\$136,240
Texas City	50,946	\$509,460
Tiki Island	1,057	\$10,570

The above transfer amounts equate to each community allocating 18% of their CARES Act to go towards testing and other community response activities for the rest of the 2020 calendar year. We feel this request is reasonable and responsible given the circumstances and current unknowns as our economy begins to open back up.

The interlocal agreement has been attached for your review and consideration.

The Galveston County Office of Emergency Management will **hold a conference call tomorrow (6/16) at 0930,** for all mayors, city managers, and emergency management coordinators to discuss this proposal in more detail and answer any questions you may have. **The call in information is 1-888-808-6929: Code: 3095002.** If you are in agreement with the attached interlocal, please sign a copy where your signature line is located and email to [Tyler.Drummond@co.galveston.tx.us](mailto:Tyler.Drummond@co.galveston.tx.us).

Sincerely,

**Scott N. Tafuri**

Emergency Management Coordinator  
Galveston County Office of Emergency Management  
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