

# California COVID-19 Testing Task Force Update

May 20, 2020

# Agenda



**Introductions and logistics**



**Objectives**



**Approach**



**Progress**



**Next steps**



**Questions**

# Logistics



- **Participation by invitation only** – please send participation requests to [testing.taskforce@state.ca.gov](mailto:testing.taskforce@state.ca.gov)
- All of this is to facilitate a **trusted, open dialogue** in a highly fluid situation
- **A newsletter** will follow this meeting and can be used to share with/update others in your community

# Introductions



## Today's speakers

- **Dr. Charity Dean**, Assistant Director, California Department of Public Health
- **Paul Markovich**, President and CEO, Blue Shield of California
- **Dr. Christina Kong**, Vice Chair and Medical Director of Pathology & Clinical Lab, Stanford University

List of Task Force leaders provided on Task Force website at [testing.covid19.ca.gov](https://testing.covid19.ca.gov)

## Roles in this public-private partnership

- Appropriate state officials **always** make decisions
- Individuals from the private sector are providing important support at a critical juncture and **do not** make decisions

# Two types of COVID-19 tests mentioned in these materials



## PCR (molecular diagnostic) and Antigen tests



## Serological tests

### Detection of...

Virus

Antibodies

### Common sample type

Nose nasal or throat  
swab

Blood/plasma

### Key considerations

PCR is gold standard for  
diagnostic testing

Do not diagnose infection, but  
can be useful for antibody  
detection

# Task Force goals and approach

## Our goals

Increase total number of tests

24-hour turnaround

90% accuracy

Equitable and convenient access



## Our approach



**Access:** Establish statewide collection sites for equitable access



**Test processing:** Maximize throughput and turnaround time of labs



**Statewide distribution:** Establish a smart distribution of scarce supplies



**Facilitate innovation:** Provide recommendations on new, promising tests



**Data and analytics:** Track and report results

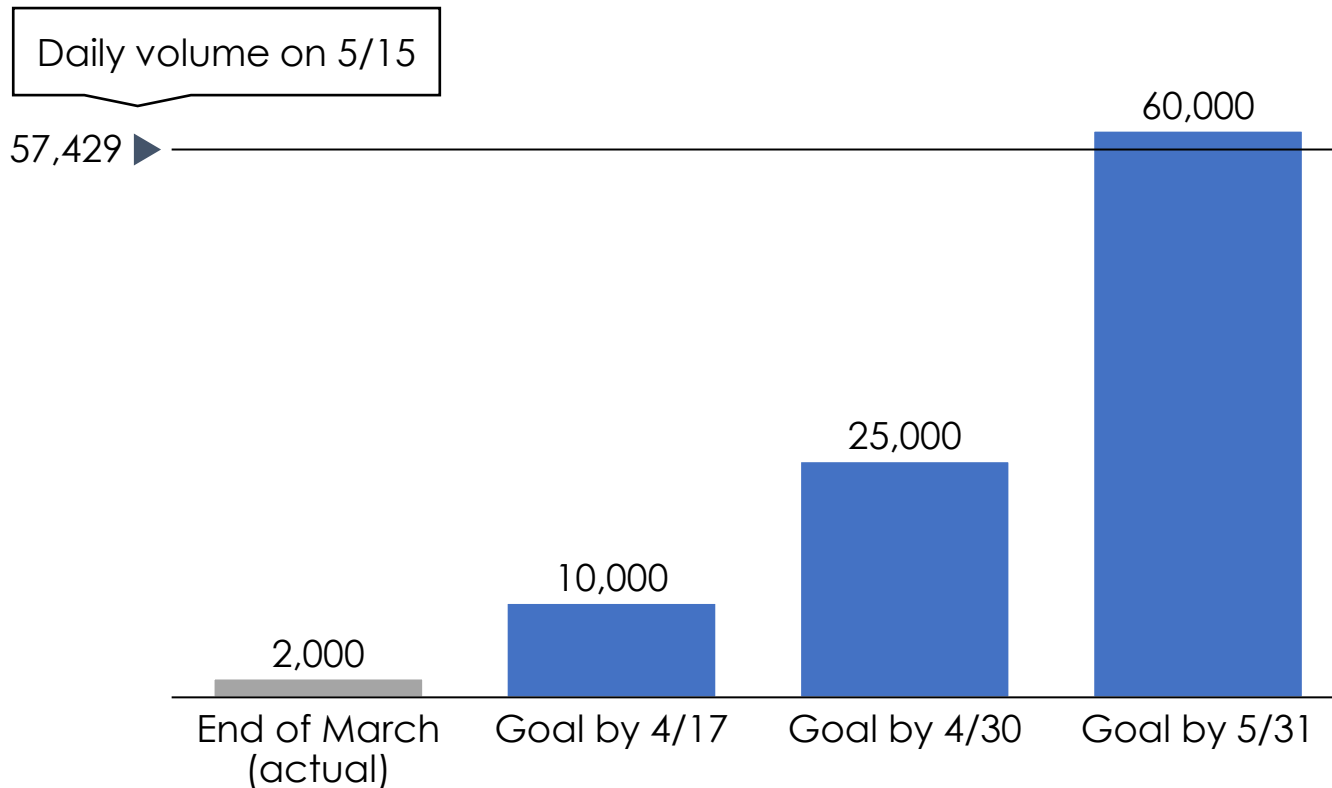


**Community-driven workforce needs:** Maximize using members of the community for the work

# Reaching our goals will require taking a range of actions

## Current and expected number of COVID-19 tests in California

Tests/day (PCR Tests)



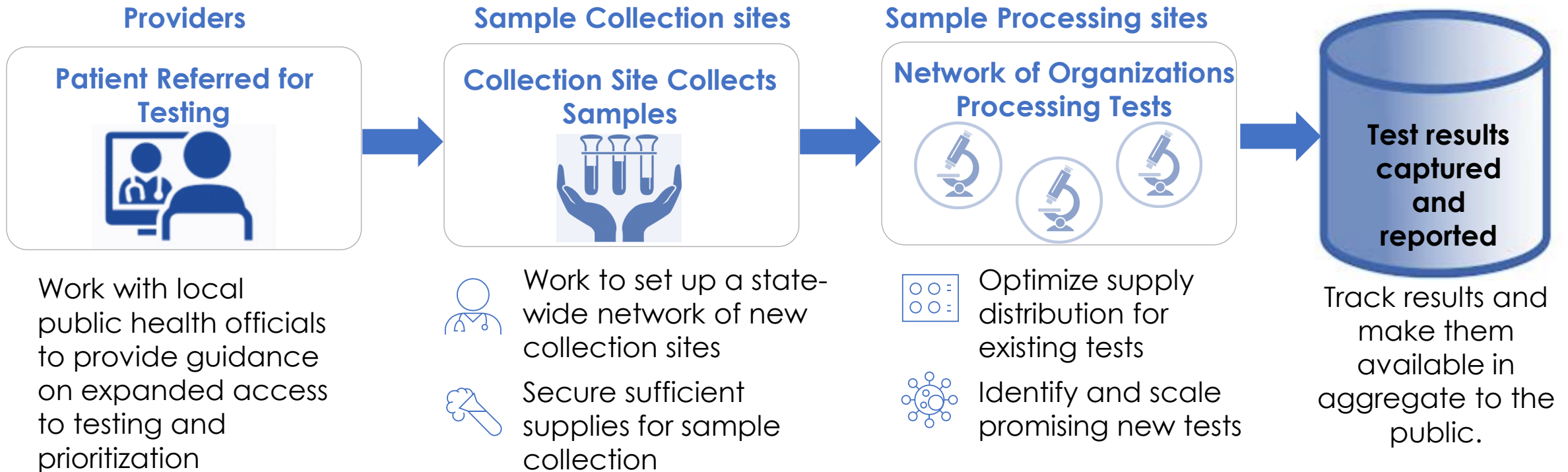
### Actions to increase test volumes:



- Increase capacity for existing labs to process tests
- Increase number of specimens collected for processing
- Assess and deploy new tests (e.g., point of care, serology)



# Task Force is optimizing end-to-end testing workflows



**CA Task Force Team**





# The network of testing sites is being expanded to provide equitable access across the state

Current as of 05/17

## Criteria for recommendation of additional sites:



- Ensure access to testing in underserved communities
- Ensure a collection site within approx. **30 min** driving time in urban areas and within approx. **60 min** in rural areas
- Ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet state requirements for reopening (**1.5 tests per 1,000 people**)

## Network of testing active sites in California

OptumServe sites

78

Verily sites

14

Other community sites (including drive-throughs, clinics, urgent care centers, and other sites)

340+



# The Task Force has launched an integrated directory of testing sites

- ✓ Locations and working hours for all Verily, OptumServe, and other community testing sites
- ✓ Search by location (address, zip, county)
- ✓ Links and phone numbers to schedule appointments



# The state is preparing to open additional testing sites in rural counties

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## **Testing site options for rural counties include:**

- Mobile vans
- Shared testing sites for two or more neighboring rural counties
- Pharmacies
- Home-based testing



# The Task Force is working to secure scarce supplies for sample collection and test processing



Current as of 05/19



## Sample collection supplies

- The Task Force confirmed and operationalized **supply distribution model** in partnership with RDMHSs and MHOACs
- Distribution completed for **1.2M swabs and 770k units of viral transport media**
- **2M+ swabs** expected to be delivered and distributed in the next 4 weeks
- **200+ resource requests** completed since April



## Test processing supplies

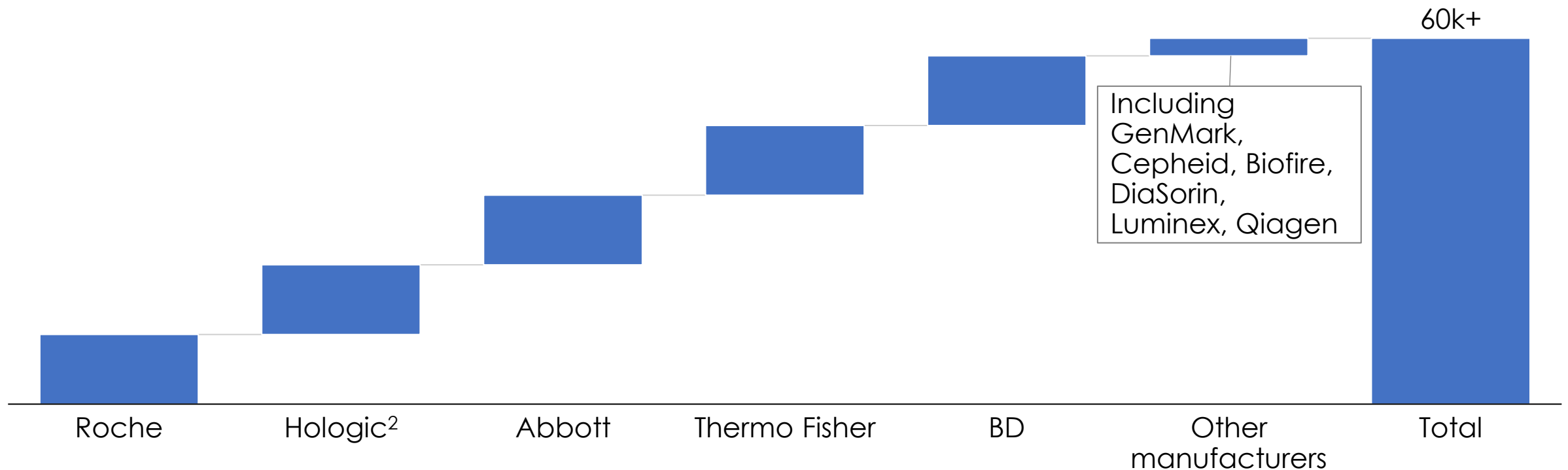
- The Task Force is in **active collaboration with all major manufacturers** to resolve supply shortages
- The state purchased **1.5M Abbott serology kits** and **250k testing kits for Abbott m2000 machines**



# California has sufficient lab capacity to meet the Task Force's daily testing goal

## Capacity for PCR COVID-19 test processing in California<sup>1</sup>

Current as of 05/19



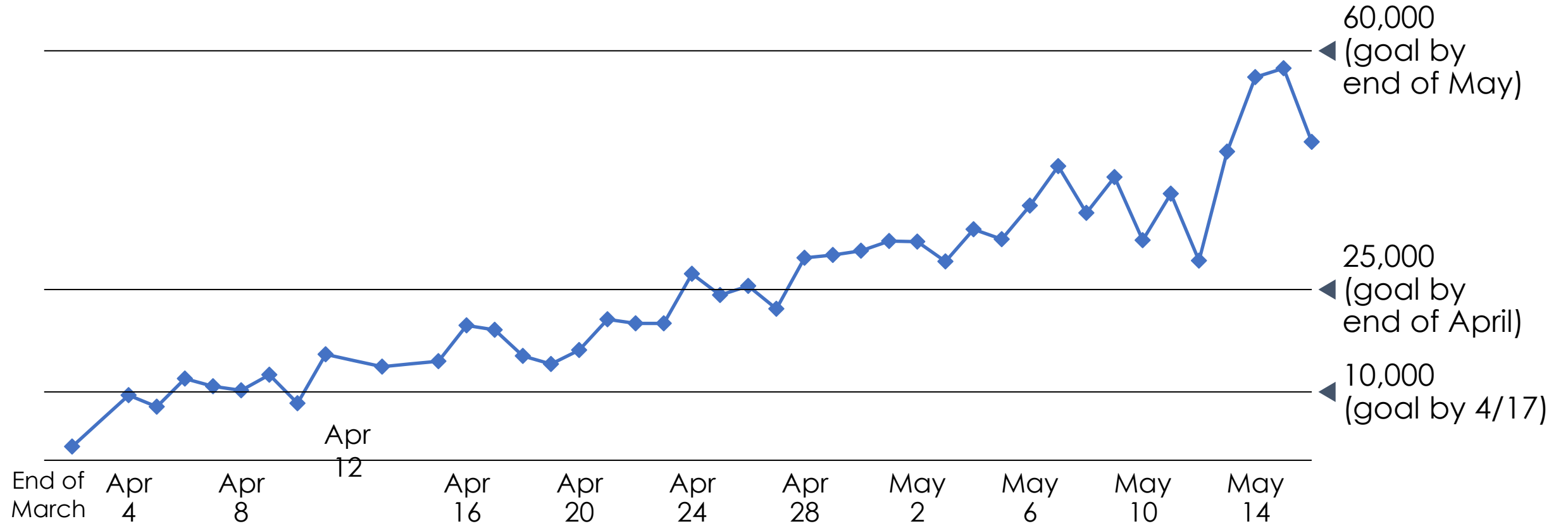
<sup>1</sup> Relative capacity takes into account availability of supplies for test processing and lab operating hours  
<sup>2</sup> Calculation based on lab reported install base, assume same throughput as Panther Fusion once test kit is approved  
 SOURCE: Install base aggregates data reported by labs; information is being refined through targeted outreach



# We are tracking tests/day daily

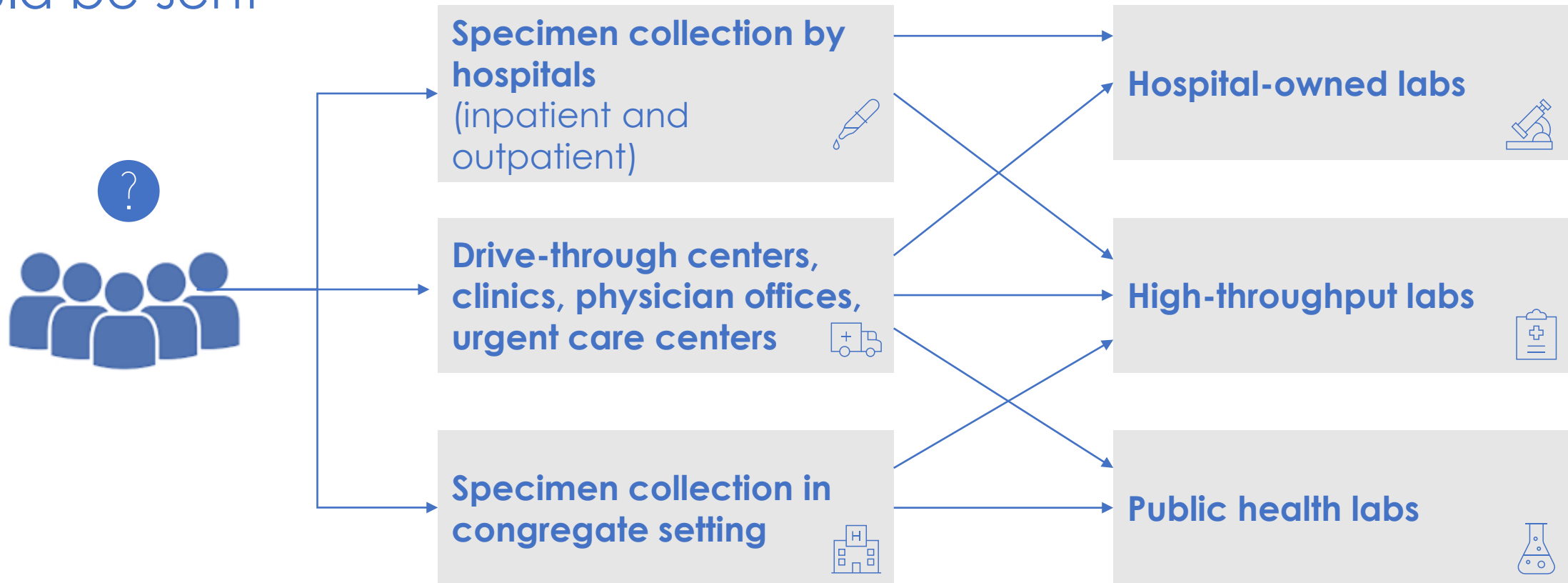
Current as of 05/17

## Total testing volume in California, tests/day





We will use this information to provide recommendations as to where collected specimens should be sent



**Role of the Task Force**

Guide people toward staffed and supplied collection sites

Match collection sites & specimens to labs that have capacity for faster test processing turnaround



# We are also examining new tests and alternative methods

## Assessment approach



### **Serology tests** *(details follow)*

Technical assessment that includes a comprehensive set of performance metrics and follows a systematic multi-step approach



### **Rapid point of care tests**

Focus on symptomatic cases in ER, ICU, or congregate settings, vulnerable populations, and first responders



### **Specimen pooling**

Assessment focused on feasibility and identification of low prevalence areas where pooling may be beneficial

# The Task Force has developed recommended minimum performance levels for serology tests

Current as of 05/17

## Assessment scheme

**Step 1**

**Does the testing method have performance data derived from clinically and scientifically valid methods?**

**Step 2**

**Does the testing method have adequate clinical sensitivity (min 90%) and specificity (99%)?**

**Step 3**

**What is the relationship of sensitivity/specificity and predictive values for each test method?**

**Step 4**

**What are additional available performance metrics** (e.g., turnaround time, specimen type, reagent stability and availability)?

# The Task Force is monitoring new technologies that promise to increase access to testing



## Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) Guidelines on the Diagnosis of COVID-19:

**Suggests mid-turbinate (MT) or nasal swabs are acceptable alternatives to nasopharyngeal swabs in symptomatic individuals**

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**Suggests that nasal and MT swabs may be collected by *either* patients (at home self-collection with appropriate training) or healthcare providers**

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**Saliva collection: Insufficient data. Given significant interest, the panel anticipates additional studies to better inform on test performance**

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**Tests with *at home self collection kits* now available: *Current as of May 17, 2020***

- Rutgers' Clinical Genomics Lab – Saliva
- Pixel by LabCore – Nasal swab
- Fulgent Therapeutics, LLC\* – Nasal swab
- Assurance Scientific Laboratories\* – Nasal swab

\* Everlywell supplies COVID-19 nasal swab kit

## What we hope you take away from this session

- We have developed a comprehensive but highly manual picture of testing in CA
- Picture is dynamic, changing every day
- Task Force is working hard to help:
  - Optimize distribution of testing supplies and equipment where needed
  - Recommend when new tests should be put into widespread use
  - Propose resources needed to expand testing capacity
  - Ensure equitable and appropriate statewide access to testing
- Efforts are gaining traction as we have moved from ~2,000 tests per day when we started, to going past our 25,000 tests per day goal by end of April and currently up to ~53K per day as our latest 3-day average (05/14 to 05/16)
- We have a path to further increase tests per day to 60,000-80,000 per day and plenty of work left to do to achieve it

## Next Steps



- Visit [testing.covid19.ca.gov](https://testing.covid19.ca.gov) to learn more
- Ongoing newsletter with updates about our work
- Please reach out to [testing.taskforce@state.ca.gov](mailto:testing.taskforce@state.ca.gov) if you have any questions about the Task Force efforts