U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Collaborating with our clients to supply data

Cerner, along with our clients, is answering the call of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health agencies to supply relevant data to aid the federal government in its COVID-19 response.

To help create a robust data set, we have asked our clients to voluntarily share relevant data including reported lab results, syndromic surveillance and capacity management, showing bed, ventilator and personal protective equipment availability. Below is a letter from the CDC providing Cerner authorization on this initiative.

Cerner, in conjunction with other health IT providers, worked with the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to get direction that allows health IT providers to serve as reporting hubs on behalf of their clients. In Cerner’s case, when your organization reports daily through our capacity data survey tool, Cerner will direct that data to both NHSN and CDC, eliminating the need for duplicative reporting and helping to ease your work effort.

To consent to this data sharing on behalf of your organization, please contact your Client Accountable Executive.
March 13, 2020

Brent Shafer
Chairman and CEO
Cerner Corporation
2800 Rockcreek Parkway
Kansas City, Missouri 64117-2521

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Thank you and your team for meeting with our experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last month and for the recent calls where you shared information regarding how your company may help protect the public in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Your offer is generous and could have a lasting impact on our response efforts nationwide.

This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and a complete clinical picture is not fully known yet. On January 31, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services Azar declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization publicly characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. With the increasing number of cases in the U.S. and across the globe, it is of critical importance for CDC to access all resources that are available to support efforts in the response.

On behalf of the agency, I have requested that our experts outline the details necessary for working together to engage your team and clients in participating in a COVID-19 surveillance network that could assist in our efforts to protect the public and lessen the spread and impact of this virus. As you know, it is imperative to activate this surveillance network as soon as possible.

As community spread continues to increase, so does the risk to the general public. However, with assistance from organizations such as yours, CDC will be prepared to continue to leverage all the tools needed to respond to this public health emergency.

Again, thanks to you and your team for the readiness to connect and your generous offer of assistance, which proved enormously valuable in our H1N1 response effort. We are truly appreciative of the support you have provided in the past and look forward to engaging with you further in the critical days and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director, CDC