



May 19, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary,

CVS Health recently received approximately \$43.3 million through the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund. As you know, CVS Health did not solicit these funds but received them as part of an automatic distribution by the Department of Health and Human Services. We have made the decision to return the funds and forgo participation in subsequent disbursements. In doing so, we hope to help HHS provide additional support to other providers who are facing significant financial challenges as a result of the pandemic.

We have greatly appreciated the Department's recognition that CVS Health is more than a corner drug store and is a direct provider of care. We have more than 30,000 pharmacists, over 10,000 nurses and thousands more health care professionals who interact with patients on a daily basis. Practitioners from MinuteClinic, the retail medical clinic inside CVS Pharmacy locations, are overseeing the large-scale COVID-19 test sites we have been operating since early April. Nurses from Coram, our infusion care business, have made more than 60,000 home visits since the pandemic began. Our specialty pharmacy has engaged on nearly 10,000 phone calls from physicians and patients, many of whom are battling serious illnesses. Our colleagues are doing all they can to help support the communities in which they live and serve. As you know, our response to the pandemic continues to accelerate, with plans to establish 1,000 COVID-19 test sites at select CVS Pharmacy drive-thru locations by the end of May. Recognizing that underserved communities are disproportionately affected by the virus, more than half of those sites will serve communities with the greatest need as measured by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Social Vulnerability Index.

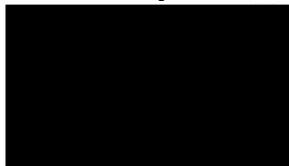
We are also taking other steps to be sure patients have access to care including, for all of our insured members, waiver of deductibles and cost-sharing for telemedicine visits as well as for inpatient admissions for treatment of COVID-19 or health complications associated with the virus. We also recently announced that we are waiving out-of-pocket costs for all in-network primary care visits for our Medicare Advantage members through September 30.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the dedication of our employees. From overseeing test sites to providing essential goods and services, our employees have been there for customers and patients in the most challenging of times.



In my view, returning these funds is part of CVS Health's overall plan to do everything we can to help the communities we serve respond to the pandemic. We look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,



Larry Merlo