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February 10, 2025

Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20201

Dear Acting Secretary Fink,

On behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and our 13,000 members, I am reaching out to offer to be a resource to you and your staff and to ask that you ensure that timely scientific information on infectious diseases is made available without undue delays or disruptions. It is critical that federal health agencies have the flexibility, resources and experts necessary to maintain timely communication of scientific information. Clinicians rely upon routine and often time-sensitive scientific information from federal health agencies to provide the best possible care for our patients, and individuals rely upon this information to make decisions for themselves and their families.

We understand that any transition from one Administration to another brings changes and that the volume of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) activities you oversee is immense. To assist you, we want to highlight some types of information, listed below, for which our members have reported experiencing disruptions in recent weeks. We recognize that the status of communications from health agencies remains fluid, so we are aiming to share on-the-ground feedback to support improved communication.

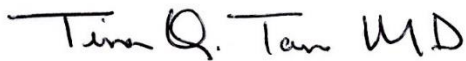
Examples of communication disruptions and delays:

- Testing and sharing results with treating clinicians for infections for which testing is only available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including botulism, anthrax, leishmania and more; rapid access to testing is essential to detect infectious diseases and guide treatment and containment protocols.
- Rapid and complete information on the ongoing avian flu outbreak, including information on the number of cases with and without epidemiological links to livestock or poultry, and screening guidance; this is important to inform and protect Americans and our food supply.
- Routine rapid sharing of information on seasonal influenza and local outbreaks of measles, tuberculosis, pertussis and other infectious diseases to enable clinicians and health care facilities to respond effectively in their communities through continuously maintained publicly available surveillance data.
- Information on routine vaccine uptake and recommendations.
- Timely reporting of outbreaks of foodborne illness.

- National Healthcare Safety Network information needed to prevent, track and address life-threatening health care-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance before they spread.
- Rapid and complete information on emerging outbreaks of Ebola and Marburg hemorrhagic fever viruses to prevent them from reaching our shores and to provide front-line clinicians with information they need to contain, identify and treat these deadly diseases. We are encouraged that CDC published a Health Alert Network Health Advisory on Ebola on Feb. 6 and hope that any further communications on emerging outbreaks will be publicly shared without delay.
- Guidance important to preventing infections, including “Preexposure Prophylaxis for the Prevention of HIV Infection in the United States – 2021 Update: A Clinical Practice Guideline,” along with other CDC guidelines for treating sexually transmitted infections.
- Routine publication of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, which helps clinicians understand the best ways to prevent, detect and treat emerging or mutating infections, and how infections like influenza, mosquito- and tick-borne infections, viral hepatitis, antibiotic-resistant infections, HIV and many others are spreading and affecting our communities. We were encouraged to see the *MMWR* published on Feb. 6 and hope there will be no further delays in its publication.
- Publication of the scientific journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases* through CDC, which publishes nongovernmental, timely infectious diseases content using an independent peer-reviewed process. The journal explicitly does not represent the views of HHS or CDC.

As infectious diseases physicians and scientists, our members are charged with preventing, diagnosing and treating infectious diseases to help our patients and communities be safe and healthy. We, along with the patients and communities we serve, all need the most up-to-date information on how infectious diseases threats are spreading through our communities in order to effectively protect Americans. We stand ready to work with you for the health of our nation. Please feel free to contact Amanda Jezek, IDSA senior vice president for public policy and government relations at [ajezek@idsociety.org](mailto:ajezek@idsociety.org) if we can do anything to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Q. Tan MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tina Tan, MD, FIDSA, FPIDS, FAAP  
President, IDSA