



October 29, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Maga'hågan Guåhan Governor of Guam
Office of the Governor
Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex Adelup
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Covid-19 Testing Fees

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero:

On behalf of IHP Medical Clinic I ask that you immediately correct your statement telling people that they should not pay for Covid-19 testing because the Government is paying for the tests. **This is factually wrong and dangerously misleading.** We have never been contacted by your office, we have never been offered a Government contract, we have never been offered any money for COVID testing by the Government. We don't know what clinics you were referring to but IHP, and other clinics we have spoken to that are providing testing for a fee, do not have contracts with the Government of Guam, do not use the Department of Public Health's laboratory, do not submit invoices to the Government, and do not receive payment from the Government.

All of our PCR testing – which is the best and most accurate testing available – is performed by Diagnostic Laboratory Services (“DLS”) and is paid for by the patient or the patient's insurance company. IHP also offers antigen testing (15 minute results) and antibody tests (10 minute results). For each of these tests, IHP charges a fee because it purchases and pays for all of the supplies and provide the staff to perform and read the tests. No Government money is involved, and we are not reimbursed by the Government.

The Government has not made contracts available to clinics like ours. If the Government is paying any clinics, it is only a few and they are overburdened. Why are people paying for tests? The reason is simple – this is a very dangerous virus and they want to be tested immediately when they start showing symptoms, when they have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, when they want to



show their employer that they are Covid-19 free, or when they want to travel. Unless a person is willing to wait as long as five days for an appointment at Public Health or at one of the free testing clinics, they must go to a private clinic.

IHP is doing its part to provide patients timely testing, COVID-19 information, monitoring and support, without Government aid or support. It would be wonderful if everyone could get tested for free in a timely manner. IHP strongly supports making free testing available to the public. But that is not the reality of testing on Guam. Governor Leon Guerrero, if you want to provide the money for people to get tested for free, you need to ensure that the testing can be done quickly and without long delays in making an appointment. This means you need to extend contracts to clinics like IHP to make this possible. In the meantime, we will continue to provide our patients prompt and accurate testing in the most cost effective way we can.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hieu T. Campus", is written over a horizontal line.

Hieu T. Campus, M.D.
President