



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Kevin Guthrie
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kevin Guthrie, Director
FROM: Mandi Cohen, Inspector General
DATE: December 1, 2022
SUBJECT: Six-Month Status Report to Auditor General Report No. 2022-200

Pursuant to § 20.055(6)(h), Florida Statutes, the Office of Inspector General conducted a six-month follow-up to the Auditor General's report number 2022-200, *COVID-19 Data Collection and Reporting at Selected State Entities*. The final report was issued by the Auditor General in June 2022, and contained one finding and one recommendation related to FDEM.

Please find attached our six-month status report regarding management's update to the finding included in the Auditor General's report. Per statutory requirements, this status report will be provided to the Chief Inspector General and the Legislative Auditing Committee.

We appreciate the assistance and cooperation provided by FDEM staff members during this engagement. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Attachment

CC: Jimmy Bujeda, Deputy Director
Luke Strickland, Chief of Staff
Melinda Miguel, Chief Inspector General
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

Florida Division of Emergency Management



Office of Inspector General

Six-Month Status Report to
Auditor General Report No. 2022-200

December 1, 2022



INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to § 20.055(6)(h), Florida Statutes, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) conducted a six-month follow-up to the Auditor General's report number 2022-200, *COVID-19 Data Collection and Reporting at Selected State Entities*. The final report was issued by the Auditor General in June 2022, and contained one finding and one recommendation related to FDEM.

SUMMARY OF FINDING & MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE

The OIG requested FDEM management provide a six-month status update regarding the finding included in the Auditor General's report number 2022-200. The following is a summary of the Auditor General's finding and recommendation, along with FDEM management's six-month status update.

AUDITOR GENERAL FINDING 4: COVID-19 Data Reporting and Contract Payment Controls

Finding: Neither the Division nor the Department reconciled the reported number of COVID-19 tests administered at State-led testing sites to laboratory results reported to the Department. Additionally, Division records did not always evidence that the Division reconciled the number of COVID-19 tests invoiced by laboratories to the number of tests reported in Division situation reports.

Recommendation: We recommend that Division and Department management take steps to ensure that data regarding declared Statewide emergencies such as COVID-19 is subject to adequate review and control to promote complete and accurate reporting and appropriate payment of contractor invoices, as applicable.

FDEM Management Six-Month Status Update: The Division is working to modernize its business processes as well as technology capacity to manage the complexities of what can be a statewide coordination of recovery, preparedness, mitigation, and response efforts for future events.

The processes being reengineered will greatly reduce the risk of gaps in performance as well as compliance to State and Federal applicable laws, regulations, and rules.

The enhanced processes will enable the Division as well as its partner agencies, in this case the Department of Health, to ensure deliverables are being verified and there is a reconciliation to ancillary systems. Future agreements with respect to emergency response events in the public health sphere will explicitly require this. The aforementioned enhancements will better enable the State to manage this across State agencies.

Executive Office of the Governor
Florida Division of Emergency Management

Office of Inspector General
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399



OIG **HOTLINE**
REPORT FRAUD

Report Fraud, Waste, Abuse, or Misconduct

FDEM OIG: 1-850-815-4151
Complaint@em.MyFlorida.com

Mandi Cohen, Esq.
Inspector General