



Congresswoman  
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Texas' 16th Congressional District

## **Binational Health Strategies Act of 2020**

**Section 1. Short Title-** The title of this bill is the “Binational Health Strategies Act of 2020”

**Section 2. Amendment-** This section provides amendments to the *United States-Mexico Border Health Commission Act*, and all contents hereafter contain the amendments to the *United States-Mexico Border Health Commission Act*.

*Section 5a(a). COVID-19 Response-* Requires the U.S. Mexico Border Health Commission (the Commission) to submit a report on the U.S.-Mexico Border region’s (border region) response to COVID-19 within 120 days of enactment of this bill. The Commission must also submit annual reports on the border region’s response to COVID-19 for as long as the commission deems it necessary. This report must contain information regarding, but not limited to, testing, contact tracing, and other infection prevention and control measures carried out in the border region on both sides of the border.

*Section 5a(b). COVID-19 Binational Plan-* Requires the Commission to develop and publish a binational strategic plan to address COVID-19 within 60 days of this bill’s enactment. This plan must address, but is not limited to:

- How the border region can bolster its response to COVID-19 in regards to testing, contact tracing, and other infection prevention and control measures
- How the effect of COVID-19 on economic conditions in the border region may be mitigated
- How health agencies on both sides of the border can effectively share relevant COVID-19 health data, including testing and positivity rates
- How a vaccine should be disbursed within the border region when taking into account the vulnerable populations in the area

The Commission will then develop actions that should be taken by federal agencies in the U.S. and Mexico to facilitate implementation of the COVID-19 binational plan. One year after the publication of this information the Commission will submit a report to Congress on what actions both governments have taken to implement this plan.

*Section 5a(c). Future Infectious Diseases Plan-* Requires the Commission to develop a binational plan, within 180 days of this bill’s enactment, to prepare and respond to other infectious diseases within the border region. The Commission will update this plan once every 3 years for as long as the Commission determines it is necessary. The plan must address, but is not limited to:

- How the border region should strengthen its response to infectious diseases in regards to testing, contact tracing, and other infection prevention and control measures
- How the effect of future infectious diseases on economic conditions in the border region may be mitigated
- How health agencies on both sides of the border can effectively share relevant health data for infectious diseases, including testing and positivity rates
- How a vaccine should be disbursed within the border region for future infectious diseases while taking into account the vulnerable populations in the area.

The Commission will then develop actions that should be taken by federal agencies in the U.S. and Mexico to facilitate implementation of the future infectious diseases binational plan. One year after the publication of this information the Commission will submit a report to Congress on what actions both governments have taken to implement this plan.