Key Short-Term Objectives
Three key COVID-19 containment capabilities that are needed and potentially feasible in a matter of weeks include:

- **Widespread availability of COVID-19 testing with rapid results**: In addition to addressing the logistical challenges of increasing effective testing capacity as described above, PCR and POC diagnostic tests that are in development now must be rapidly validated and reliably manufactured and distributed at a very large scale. Wide availability with clear guidelines and support for appropriate use of these tests will enable a reliable national rapid testing capacity for timely surveillance, in turn enabling much more rapid and comprehensive action to manage suspected cases. This should be coupled with population-based serologic test analyses to provide and a more complete picture of exposures in each region of the country. Further, the development of validated self-testing capabilities such “self-swabs” and other simple testing capacity in conjunction with expanded use of telemedicine would reduce the need for dedicated “pop-up” testing facilities and drive-throughs that require extensive use of protective equipment to prevent contagion.

- **Availability of more effective prophylaxis and therapeutics**: Intensive global efforts toward vaccine development and production are underway and will ultimately have a substantial impact on containing the pandemic, but that will take time. In the coming weeks, a critical component of containing the current and especially future waves of outbreaks involves much more rapid steps to accelerate shorter-term improvements in COVID-19 treatment. One element is better supportive care from experience, evaluation, and refinement of current treatment protocols. But COVID-19 containment and impact can also be improved through efficient and rapid clinical studies to determine the safety and effectiveness of prophylactics for at-risk clinicians and patients, as well as therapies for mitigating COVID-19 infections, coupled with processes to accelerate their widespread availability. The goal is to move a wide range of treatments that appear promising through accelerated testing in efficient clinical trials, supported by substantial production to enable needed access as soon as they are proven safe and effective. This accelerated development and production capacity would apply to existing drugs that may have significant COVID-19 antiviral activity; immune globulins and monoclonal COVID-19 antibodies in development; and drugs that mediate the intense immune response that may contribute to poor outcomes in some cases. At the same time, a straightforward mechanism for expanded access to experimental treatments is needed for patients who are facing serious COVID-19 complications – and to maximize their participation in clinical trials.

- **Effective surveillance and response capacity**: The widespread and rapid availability of diagnostic testing and improved prophylaxis and therapeutics should be linked to a capacity to anticipate areas of new outbreaks and individuals at risk, and to a reliable capacity to report on test results and respond to positive cases. This would include tracking of the extent of population regional exposure to COVID-19 (not just new case detection). This capacity is needed in every region of the country. Any future COVID-19
outbreak must be snuffed out before it spreads widely enough to cause a significant public health impact, threaten health system capacity, and require triggering the current large-scale, costly physical isolation steps. Timely response may sometimes require more targeted isolation, quarantine, and social restriction steps—much as countries like Singapore and Korea are implementing. Anonymized data on testing, exposure, and associated clinical and other factors should be made available to researchers to support the development and evaluation of better and better surveillance and response mechanisms. Coupled with the improved prophylaxis and treatment capabilities, the surveillance and response capacity should provide confidence that significant relaxation of physical isolation steps can occur.