



Congressman Lee M. Zeldin
First Congressional District of New York

March 9, 2020

Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dr. Stephen Hahn
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Director Redfield and Commissioner Hahn,

New York State is experiencing one of the worst coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks in the United States, with at least 142 confirmed positive cases, including at least 1 known case in my Congressional District. As a nation, we must act quickly to prevent further spread and ensure that this disease is contained as much as possible. Every level of government has an important role to play in keeping our citizens safe.

Your agencies have continued to provide important resources for the State of New York. You approved the state's request to carry out testing in state labs, and, just this weekend, approved Northwell Health Labs' request to carry out coronavirus testing on Long Island.

Access to COVID-19 tests is one of the most important necessities for Americans to try to contain this outbreak, and I applaud your recent distribution of over 1 million tests nationwide, including 23,000 tests to New York City's Public Health Laboratory alone to the point where it was declining additional shipments. In an effort to continue increasing the availability of testing in this vein of bilateral cooperation, **I urge you to do everything in your power to make automated COVID-19 testing available in as many facilities as soon as possible.**

I thank you for your continued efforts to address this outbreak, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress