

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Secretary Azar and Administrator Gaynor:

As members of the Palm Beach County, Florida legislative delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Florida legislature we write to strongly urge you to offer support for the recently announced novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Based Testing Site in the county.

Palm Beach County has the third-most confirmed cases of any county and is part of the tri-county area that makes up more than half of the current 4,038 confirmed statewide. Friday, March 27, 2020, Governor DeSantis announced that he will establish a new Community Based Testing Site in Palm Beach County to be operated in coordination with the National Guard and county government. We ask that both the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency offer robust support for this new site to ensure its success.

Expansion of testing for the virus is necessary to prevent overwhelming our hospitals. Without it, Palm Beach County has closed non-essential businesses and some residents have been ordered to stay home. If we want to move away from blunt social distancing measures and ease the burden on the economy, we need more testing and aggressive contact tracing to slow the spread of the virus and protect our constituents.

The new testing site will not be able to operate at full capacity without support from HHS and FEMA. We ask that HHS provide technical medical expertise, supplemental medical personnel, and supplies for testing and sample collection. We ask that FEMA assist with planning, coordination, logistics, and outreach to enable the site to meet its operational requirements.

Thank you for your commitment to the health of the American people and to Floridians during this crisis. We ask that you provide us with a detailed description of the federal government's support for Community Based Testing Sites in Palm Beach County as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Alcee L. Hastings
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Lois Frankel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Brian Mast
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

FLORIDA SENATORS

- /s/ Gayle Harrell (District 25)
- /s/ Kevin Rader (District 29)
- /s/ Bobby Powell (District 30)
- /s/ Lori Berman (District 31)

FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVES

- /s/ Tina Polsky (District 81)
- /s/ MaryLynn Magar (District 82)
- /s/ Rick Roth (District 85)
- /s/ Matt Willhite (District 86)
- /s/ David Silvers (District 87)
- /s/ Al Jacquet (District 88)
- /s Mike Caruso (District 89)
- /s/ Joe Casello (District 90)
- /s/ Emily Slosberg (District 91)