



From: "Kristine.Zadrovitz@hhs.gov" <Kristine.Zadrovitz@hhs.gov>
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 11:17 AM
To: FOIA <foia@americanoversight.org>
Subject: FOIA Request # 2020-00868-FOIA-OS

EXTERNAL SENDER

RE: FOIA Request # **2020-00868-FOIA-OS**

June 04, 2020

Dear Mr. Evers,

Please see attached.

Sincerely,

Kris Zadrovitz

From: Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA) <Lee.Stevens@hhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:38 AM EDT

To: FOIA Taskers (OS/ASPA) <FOIA.taskers@HHS.gov>; Zdrovitz, Kristine (OS/ASPA) <Kristine.Zdrovitz@hhs.gov>

CC: Trueman, Laura (HHS/IEA) <Laura.Trueman@hhs.gov>; Rigas, Laura (HHS/IEA) <Laura.Rigas@hhs.gov>

Subject: Documents Requested for FOIA # 2020-00868-FOIA-OS

Attachment(s): "FW COVID Response Request and Assistance.msg"

FOIA Team- [attached please find IEA's response for request # 2020-00868-FOIA-OS.](#)

Thanks,

Lee

Lee Stevens

Senior Advisor to the Director

Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-5639

Please send correspondence to foia.taskers@hhs.gov with a copy to Kris Zdrovitz. Or you may call the FOIA Office at 202-690-7453 if you have any questions.

From: Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA) <Lee.Stevens@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 5:33 PM EDT
To: LettersToSecretary (HHS/IOS) <Letterstosecretary@hhs.gov>; Hunt, Gregorio (HHS/IEA) <Gregorio.Hunt@hhs.gov>; Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA) <Darcie.Johnston@hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: COVID Response Request and Assistance
Attachment(s): "Letter to HHS Secretary Azar - April 8 2020.pdf"

[Letter to Sec. Azar attached. Thanks!](#)

From: Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA) <Darcie.Johnston@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Stevens, Lee (OS/IEA) <Lee.Stevens@hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: COVID Response Request and Assistance

[Letter to be logged.](#)

Darcie L. Johnston
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Secretary
202-690-1058 (office)
202-853-0582 (cell)

From: Taylor, Elizabeth A. EOP/WHO <Elizabeth.A.Taylor@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IEA) <Darcie.Johnston@hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: COVID Response Request and Assistance

[Hi Darcie, can you task this letter to Secretary Azar for response?](#)

[Thanks!](#)

From: Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO <William.F.Crozer@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Taylor, Elizabeth A. EOP/WHO <Elizabeth.A.Taylor@who.eop.gov>
Subject: FW: COVID Response Request and Assistance

[Please task to HHS for response.](#)

From: Jonathan F. Thompson <jfthompson@sheriffs.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:40 PM
To: Jonathan F. Thompson <jfthompson@sheriffs.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] COVID Response Request and Assistance

Secretary Azar,
Attached is a letter from Sheriff Daron Hall, President of the National Sheriffs' Association.

We thank you for everything you, and the entire Task Force, are doing to fight the COVID Virus.

Sheriffs stand-ready to assist.

Warmest regards,

Jonathan Thompson

Jonathan Thompson
Executive Director and CEO
National Sheriffs' Association



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NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

April 8, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The coronavirus pandemic has forced our first responders to navigate the most complex environment they've encountered in generations. We need your help: Our men and women – sheriffs' deputies, officers, firefighters and EMTs – are in harm's way and in desperate need of scarce lifesaving COVID-19 test kits and personal protection equipment (PPE).

The health and safety of the men and women who work in our medical community is vitally important. Providing first responders priority access to the supplies, equipment and diagnostic tools is understood and accepted.

Nevertheless, the first responder community has insufficient protection and access to testing. Their wellness, and the safety of our communities, is paramount. As industry and government identify new paths to protect and respond, we ask for your additional assistance to first responders to fight the virus in the following four ways:

1. Testing

Abbott Laboratories Rapid Scan testing has entered the market, with the medical community and those of highest priority need being supplied access. We ask HHS and the White House Coronavirus Task Force to recommend to governors and state health officials to provide all medical personnel with the Abbott ID Now® rapid test system, and ask that first responders receive highest priority for the Abbott m2000 RealTime® tests widely in use now.

2. PPE

With the new and widening deployment of the Battelle Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide System, we ask that as new PPE equipment is made available on a priority basis to medical personnel that HHS and the Task Force direct governors to authorize first responders priority access to the Battelle system for rejuvenation for existing PPE supplies.

3. Identifying COVID-19 Positive Individuals

We welcome HHS's decision to permit sharing of vital HIPPA information. Nevertheless, several state health officials limit sharing of information. We ask HHS and the Task Force to

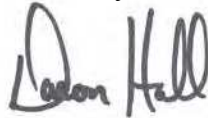
reaffirm the need to cooperatively share important health information with first responders. 911 call centers must advise first responders of potential exposure. Devising guidelines with state health facilities to provide 911 call-centers of this critical safety information protects first responders and, ultimately, the community. Law enforcement and first responders are well versed in “need-to-know” guidelines. After the levels of PPE return to normal market access, we fully expect the HIPPA rules, and practices, to be recalibrated.

4. Addressing Criminal Activity

We stand ready to assist HHS, the Task Force, and DOJ with the ever-increasing criminal enterprises of price-gouging, scam medical equipment and supplies being sold illegally. Law enforcement will not rest until they are brought to justice. We are eager to work with HHS and the Task Force to train our leaders on why it is dangerous and undermines our rule of law during this urgent time, what to look for, and where. Further, as confiscation occurs, we want to work with you and the state health officials to develop formulas that distribute those supplies to those in most need.

NSA is ensuring that first responder’s voices are heard by the private sector and by our partners in local, state and federal governments. First responders are cherished for their valor and are in our prayers daily. We appreciate any help on these matters. Our first responders protect us. We must protect them, too.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Daron Hall
NSA President

cc: The Honorable William Barr, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
White House Coronavirus Task Force
Mr. Jared Kushner, Senior Advisor to the President
Dr. Robert Kadlec, Assistant Secretary (Preparedness & Response), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services