

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. 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 20024

Dear Secretary Azar and Administrator Gaynor,

We write in support of the request made by Dallas County for federal assistance for the County's COVID-19 testing efforts. As you know, testing remains one of the most important tools to combat and contain the spread of COVID-19.

Specifically, Dallas County requests support for acquiring the reagents used in the Cepheid analyzer, which can run up to 1,500 tests per day or the Roche analyzer, which has the capacity of up to 1,000 tests per day. Federal support for acquiring these reagents will not only help North Texas maintain the testing efforts that our community needs, but will also improve the turnaround time for our testing program. Faster turnaround times will help promote effective and efficient contract tracing.

This support is particularly critical now as COVID-19 cases are continuing to dangerously rise in North Texas. Just two days ago, Dallas County reported 445 new COVID-19 cases. COVID-19 hospitalizations are also on the rise. Since June 1, COVID-19 hospitalization in Dallas County have increased by 88 percent. Clearly now is not the time for the federal government to withdraw federal support for COVID-19 testing.

We appreciate the assistance that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have thus far provided to the Dallas region. However, our fight against COVID-19 will require continued cooperation and coordination between federal, state, and local governments and we hope the federal government can continue to support the Dallas region's testing efforts.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress