

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew J. Lanza

## Staten Island Elected Officials Seek Quick Action on Coronavirus Testing

ANDREW J. LANZA March 18, 2020

ISSUE: CORONAVIRUS UPDATES, COVID-19



## Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515–3211

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY SUBCOMPTEES INTELEENES AND CONTRACTIONS COMMENT EXEMPLES: PREAMINED AND RECOVERY

> COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS BUICOMMITTEEL HEALTH DIFFEORT AND INVESTIGATION

March 18, 2020

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

Dear Dr. Hahn,

We write today to strongly urge you to quickly take action to approve more automated testing as well as more reagents, the needed chemicals to make the coronavirus tests work. Specifically, we ask you to expedite approval for the manufacturer Cepheid's application as soon as it is filed for their automated equipment, as they are working in conjunction with Richmond University Medical Center, a major hospital in our community, to begin coronavirus testing.

With the automated Cepheid equipment approved, Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) can begin testing for the coronavirus and will dramatically boost the capacity for testing on Staten Island. Currently, the only other hospital on Staten Island is able to run the tests for this deadly virus but RUMC cannot without this approval. For such a large metropolitan area to have only one facility that is able to run the test for coronavirus is unacceptable and we are concerned about backlogs in the near future.

We urge you to use the full power of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as our states, cities, hospitals, labs, and manufactures to ensure that more automated testing equipment and reagents are quickly approved so that we can dramatically scale our testing capacity as soon as possible.

Additionally, we urge you to work closely with manufacturers to urge more of them to begin making coronavirus testing equipment and reagents. Finally, we need to be working closely with public and private labs around the nation to ensure that as many of them are stepping up to do coronavirus testing as possible. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

James S. Odda

Max Rose Member of Congress

James Oddo Staten Island Brough President

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Michael E. McMahon Staten Island District Attorney