

Name: _____

Return Address: _____

Date: _____

Howard Zucker, MD, JD, Commissioner
NYS Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York

RE.: COVID in NYS Correctional Facilities

Dear Commissioner Zucker:

My name is _____.

This is to inform you that I've enclosed a copy of a letter that several other North Country residents and I have sent to Governor Cuomo. It presents to him our concern about the apparent lack of transparency on his part and that of Acting Director Annucci regarding the Impact of the COVID pandemic on inmates and staff members, including corrections officers.

We are principally concerned about the lack of universal COVID testing for all inmates and staff without which, we believe, effective COVID control and mitigation efforts cannot be implemented. We have asked that the Governor and Mr. Annucci re-examine COVID in our prisons and render a public and comprehensive report to allay fears that staff and inmates and their families might have that they are being abandoned.

We have also asked the Governor to consider anew the bill submitted by Assemblyman Gottfried and Senator Rivera to amend the State's public health law to allow NYSDOH to more readily provide to DOCCS the resources and expertise it could very well be in need of in this time of COVID.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and these matters. We would greatly appreciate your support as well as any feedback you might care to provide.

Yours truly,

Signature: _____

Enc.