

MAX ROSE

11TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3371

STATEN ISLAND OFFICE:
265 NEW DORP LANE, SECOND FLOOR
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306
TELEPHONE: (718) 667-3313

BROOKLYN OFFICE:
8203 3RD AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11209
TELEPHONE: (718) 306-5500

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND
SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERTERRORISM,
CHAIRMAN

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE
AND RECOVERY

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

June 9, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write to you today to urge you to adopt pooled sampling, the latest innovation in COVID-19 testing, throughout New York State. As you may know, pooled sampling is when large numbers of test samples – anywhere from 10 to 100 specimens at once – are pooled together and then screened at once. If you get a positive result from a pool, then you test each person in it. As we continue to see the number of positive cases hover at just 1-3% of those tested, pooled sampling can make a huge impact to help us identify those infected and isolate them while getting our economy back on track. As you noted recently, on Saturday June 6th, New York tested 60,435 people for COVID-19 but only 781 were positive — just over 1% of the total. This means many pools of samples will not need to have further testing.

Experts note that these can be very accurate and efficient. As former Food and Drug Administrator Scott Gottlieb recently noted, pooled sampling is how China claims it recently managed to screen 10 million citizens in Wuhan in 19 days. As the *New York Times* recently reported, this has led to a huge surge in Wuhan's testing capacity: "Laboratories went from processing around 46,000 tests a day, on average, before the drive, to as many as 1.47 million tests on Friday. By comparison, the state of New York has tested 1.7 million people since March 4."

Pooled sampling can be a game changer to get large numbers of people tested quickly – including for nursing homes, hospitals, businesses, and public housing among many others. For businesses of all sizes, this can help them reopen and stay open knowing they can test workers in large numbers and on a regular basis if needed. I look forward to working with you to bring pooled sampling to New York. Thank you and I appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Max Rose
Member of Congress