



CITY OF HOUSTON
Health and Fire Departments

Sylvester Turner
Mayor

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Rear Admiral Erica Schwartz
Deputy Surgeon General
U.S. Public Health Service

On behalf of Mayor Sylvester Turner, I am respectfully requesting that you give your full commitment and authorization for continued support through FEMA for the Covid-19 testing sites in Houston Texas.

As you know the City of Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States with a population of approximately 2.4 million and home to the world-renowned Texas Medical Center that is on the front line of fighting Covid-19 for the entire region. Houston will undoubtedly be the epicenter of Covid-19 related cases in the state of Texas.

It would be a monumental step backward to lose this critical federal support of testing sites nearly two weeks prior to the projected peak of Covid-19 cases for the fourth largest city in the United States with two international airports, a port critical to the supply of goods and services, and the hub of energy production and services for the nation. The critical infrastructure and key resources unique to Houston are paramount to numerous industries affecting the entire nation to include supply chain, medical research, and energy services.

Houston, Harris County Texas continues to operate under stay at home, work safe orders until April 30, 2020 and losing support for testing sites will undoubtedly have catastrophic cascading consequences in the regions ability to adequately test, quarantine and isolate ultimately blunting the progression of Covid-19. Consequently, it is my request and hope that you will offer your full support and recommendation that FEMA support for testing sites in Houston Texas will continue.

Loss of FEMA support as it currently stands will place an almost insurmountable financial burden on our city, especially in light of the fact our city revenue stream is diminishing at an unprecedented rate.

In closing, I want to thank your entire team for your support to date.

David Persse, MD