



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Ralph S. Northam  
Governor

July 22, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for the quick and effective response from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a result of my April 24, 2020 joint letter with Governors Hogan and Carney related to the COVID-19 outbreaks in poultry processing facilities on the Delmarva Peninsula. Within just a few days of our letter, CDC teams were on the ground to assist our local health departments and our poultry industry stakeholders to assess and remedy the situation. We appreciated the CDC's professionalism and expertise. It is because of that successful partnership that I reach out to you again.

There has been a recent spike in COVID-19 cases at the Farmville Detention Center, a federally-operated facility in Farmville, Virginia. As Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the health and safety of all Virginians is my highest priority. Virginians in congregate housing, such as the Farmville facility, are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. This makes the need to identify and control the transmission in such settings even more urgent.

Therefore, to ensure the safety of those who live and work in the Farmville Detention Center, as well as the surrounding community, I request that the CDC respond to and assess the situation at the facility, including conducting PCR testing on all residents and staff, as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with your administration to promptly address the health issues at the Farmville Detention Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph S. Northam".

Ralph S. Northam

cc: Virginia Congressional Delegation  
Alex Azar, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Robert R. Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security