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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

July 9, 2020

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Rachel Levine
Secretary of the Department of Health
625 Forster Street
Suite 802
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Levine,

As the Commonwealth continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, I am formally requesting your office provide the following information regarding the pandemic and the Commonwealth's response.

Data
1. Daily data from March 6 to July 9 on confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases.
2. Daily data from March 6 to July 9 on how many people have received multiple COVID-19 tests by each county and the total for the state. Please provide additional break outs for long-term care facilities and prisons.
3. Daily data from March 6 to July 9 on how many individuals have been infected two or more times with COVID-19. Please include a chart of how many people per times infected.
4. Daily data from March 6 to July 9 on confirmed cases, probable cases, negative tests, and fatalities on prisoners for each state prison and county prison. I would also suggest a breakout of this data on your website similar to long-term care reporting.

5. Daily data from March 6 to July 9 for individuals who test positive for the antibodies related to COVID-19
   o Please include whether the Department has counted individuals who have only tested positive for antibodies among the number of confirmed cases
6. Average lag time from when tests are administered to when they are confirmed positive or negative by each laboratory by week from March 6 to July 9.
7. On July 7, your Department reported Philadelphia City has an increase of COVID-19 cases of 288 which were over several weeks. Can you confirm what specific date those 288 cases were confirmed. Why are we seeing a such a long lag time? Why is the Department is allowing huge data dumps which end up manipulating trend lines and data analysis not to mention provide false context of the data to the general public?

Testing
8. What entities are currently performing COVID-19 testing by county?
9. Which entities are contracted by the Department and the Department of Human Services to do testing? Please provide their current contracts.
10. What internal controls does the Department have for verifying:
    o Test were completed
    o Accuracy of test results
    o Duplicative tests have not been submitted

PA DOH Policy
11. What is the current policy by the Department for handling individuals who have received multiple tests?
12. Individuals who test positive but are not hospitalized, what is the department's policy on follow up with these individuals to verify the length of illness and symptoms in order to build a complete profile of the COVID-19 virus?
13. Please confirm if probable cases are including individuals who have been around other individuals who have tested positive. For instance, if I were to receive a COVID-19 test because I need a medical procedure and list my other four family members as people I have been around, would they be listed as probable if I test positive? Further, what is the current procedure to verify probable cases as confirmed cases?
14. A timeline of data gathering changes, data reporting changes, and data alterations by date they occurred and reason for occurring from March 6 to July 9.

Contact Tracing
15. Please provide the list of questions contact tracers are asking.
16. What entities are performing contact tracing and their contracts.
17. Please provide the data compiled by contact tracers to date by county.

Data Management
18. How does the Department's current data management system operate?
19. How many data management systems is the department utilizing to gather and report information?

20. Has the Department looked at streamlining these operations? If so, what are the options and costs?

I appreciate your assistance in gathering this information. As we continue to deal with the impacts of COVID-19 here in the Commonwealth, it is imperative for the General Assembly to have the most up to date and detailed information on the pandemic. The information requested in this letter will assist us in decision making on behalf of the constituents we represent and help us understand the rationale behind actions taken by the executive branch regarding the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Seth Grove
Chairman
House Government Oversight Committee