

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2020

Pete Gaynor
Administrator
U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor,

I write to express concern regarding the insufficient number of test kits that New Hampshire has received in conjunction with the delivery of 15 new COVID-19 testing machines from Abbott Labs. While I appreciate the delivery of these new testing machines, the 120 test kits that New Hampshire received is woefully inadequate to address the testing demand in my state. Approximately 20 of these testing kits will be needed just to calibrate the new machines, which leaves New Hampshire with the ability to run only 100 additional tests with the Abbott Labs equipment. I urge you to make additional test kits available to my state to administer on the machines.

I understand the need to distribute COVID-19 test kits in areas with the greatest demand, but I find it unacceptable that New Hampshire will not be able to utilize these machines to the fullest extent possible. As you know, adequate testing is absolutely critical to identifying cases of COVID-19 and taking the necessary steps to contain the spread of the virus. Without widespread testing, any state or region in the country is susceptible to becoming the next COVID-19 hotspot, as we remain blind to the extent of the outbreak. Unfortunately, without additional testing kits, the 15 testing machines that have come to New Hampshire will be greatly underutilized and we will miss the opportunity to further contain the virus.

Testing must be a top priority as we seek to get people treatment and quarantine those who have been infected. It's evident from the scant 120 test kits accompanying these 15 testing machines that we are in drastic need of producing and procuring additional kits. I urge you to intensify FEMA's efforts to acquire these kits and increase the number of kits accompanying the testing machines coming to New Hampshire.

I thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator