



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor

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March 25, 2020

South Dakota Department of Health
Attn: Secretary Kim Malsam-Rysdon
600 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota, 57501

Re: Request for information related to COVID-19

Dear Director Malsam-Rysdon:

As you might be aware, the City of Rapid City will be having a second reading of an emergency ordinance in response to COVID-19 this Friday. In order to better serve our constituents, accurately respond to the barrage of inquiries that we have received, and to dispel widely disseminated conspiracy theories, I respectfully ask your help in answering the following questions:

1. How many COVID-19 tests kits are available to healthcare providers in South Dakota, and how have they been allocated by county?
2. Are the reagents necessary to run administered COVID-19 tests available in sufficient quantity?
3. If there is not a sufficient amount of reagent to run pending COVID-19 tests, how are you prioritizing, by county, what tests are processed?
4. What is the current, exact number, of COVID-19 tests that are currently waiting to be processed by the State Laboratory in Pierre, and the date that each was submitted to your lab for testing?
5. What is the distribution, by county in this state, of COVID-19 tests that are awaiting processing?
6. What is the capacity of the State Laboratory to process COVID-19 tests?
7. Assuming that the State Laboratory has the capability to process more than 20-25 tests per day, what is the reason that it hasn't done so?
8. How many of the current positive test indications resulted from private laboratory testing?
9. How many private tests are currently pending, and how does the State monitor this testing?
10. Who is the individual(s) directly responsible, at the State Laboratory, for oversight of COVID -19 test processing?



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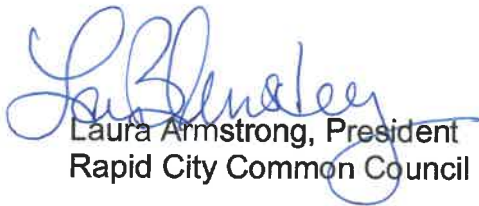
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Given the recent actions taken by the Rapid City Council to curb transmission of this virus, we're certain that you also comprehend the urgency of your response to this inquiry. We have a collective responsibility to the residents of this city and state, to have open and transparent discussion of these important issues during this time of unprecedented national crisis. Given the fluid, rapidly evolving nature of this health crisis, we request daily briefings and updates regarding the status of testing in our state and Pennington County specifically. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and your ongoing efforts in keeping everyone informed and safe.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Allender", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Allender,
Mayor of Rapid City

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Armstrong", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Laura Armstrong, President
Rapid City Common Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad Lewis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chad Lewis, Vice President
Rapid City Common Council