



January 30, 2020

VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Stephen M. Hahn, M.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20903-0002

Dear Dr. Hahn:

Yesterday, NTEU reached out to our FDA labor relations point of contact with our concerns about the safety of the employees we represent who may be exposed to the coronavirus in the course of their work. More specifically, NTEU is concerned that trips by FDA inspection personnel to China are putting those employees at risk of infection. Because we have not yet received a response from our point of contact and because this matter is of the utmost urgency and importance, I am contacting you directly with our questions.

Are any FDA employees currently in China? If employees are currently deployed there, what steps are being taken by FDA, short and long-term, to protect them and to ensure they are safely brought back to the U.S.? If any employees have been exposed to the disease, please confirm the measures taken to ensure their health and well-being.

Because of the apparent virulence of this disease and how little is known about it at this point, NTEU believes that all inspection trips to all of China should be canceled immediately and should not be reinstated until the coronavirus no longer poses a risk to FDA employees.

If these questions and concerns could be better answered through a briefing, I welcome that. NTEU's points of contact are Ken Moffett, ken.moffet@nteu.org, and Kate Sylvester, kate.sylvester@nteu.org. Thank you for responding promptly so NTEU can alleviate the understandable concerns of employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President