



February 21, 2020

VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Alexander M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

NTEU bargaining unit employees throughout HHS, including in FDA and ACF, have raised concerns about the novel coronavirus and have asked what steps HHS is taking to protect employees. Specifically, FDA employees have learned that inspection trips to China are scheduled to resume as soon as next week. ACF employees are working with people who have been repatriated from China after possible infection. Because this matter is daily becoming more urgent, I request answers to the following questions from HHS employees:

Are inspection trips to China resuming? Are any FDA employees currently in China? If employees are or will be 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.? Similarly, what steps are being taken, short- and long-term, to protect ACF employees in the United States who may be exposed to the virus through their work with repatriated Americans? Are other HHS employees being exposed to the coronavirus in the course of their work? If any employees have been exposed to the disease, please confirm the measures taken to ensure their health and well-being.

If these questions and concerns could be better answered through a briefing, I welcome that. NTEU's points of contact are Ken Moffett, ken.moffett@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.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President