



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric Holcomb
Governor

April 16, 2020

Representative Pryor,

Thank you for the letter received by my office on April 9th and for your efforts on behalf of our shared constituents throughout this situation. I agree that the efforts of the state and our communities have benefited Hoosiers all across the state and that we must always strive to take thoughtful and deliberate steps to continue down that path.

I understand and appreciate your concern about the effect COVID-19 has had and will have on Hoosier minority populations. That is why I have tasked the Indiana State Department of Health with mining all information available to us to create an accurate dataset to capture any disparities among Hoosier populations. This data is being updated daily and can be found at www.coronavirus.in.gov. This feature on our COVID-19 dashboard will inform the public and our ongoing decision making.

So far we have taken significant steps to protect Hoosiers of all walks of life and in all lines of work, with the understanding that we will continue to improve upon them and that certain critical industries must necessarily continue on. For those entities still in operation they must be following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for social distancing, capacity, sanitation, and mitigation. In addition, we worked to ensure that citizens were making minimal trips into public to limit the risk of further transmission. We also required these measures to be taken by any and all Hoosiers that are engaging in essential travel during this time, including on public transit. Finally, we created a complaint process with the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA). Each complaint that is received by IOSHA will be followed up on by the Enforcement Team that I assembled in Executive Order 20-18. This will help to ensure that even essential businesses, services, and operations are complying with CDC guidelines and other best practices.

As it relates to your request for the Department of Corrections (DOC), I have publicly stated that releasing inmates from DOC is not something we are considering at this time. However, I have been in close contact with Commissioner Rob Carter since the beginning of the outbreak in Indiana. As you state in your letter the DOC has taken steps to prevent cases within their facilities and to protect inmates when individuals test positive for COVID-19 within a facility. These steps include but are not limited to following CDC guidance for prisons, closing off visitation, providing masks for workers, following proper sanitary measures, and much more. I would encourage you to discuss those steps and your recommendations with Commissioner Carter and Dr. Daus, the Chief Medical Officer for DOC.

As more information and options become available, know that we will be taking your recommendations and requests into account. As we hopefully move past the peak of COVID-19 transmissions in the state, we will continue to assess what protections we can provide Hoosiers of every profession and walk of life.

Sincerely,

Eric Holcomb

Cc: Speaker Todd Huston
Leader Phil GiaGuinta
Commissioner Rob Carter