

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 28, 2020

Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave.
Washington, DC 20201

Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
395 E St. SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Azar & Director Redfield,

I write today with concerns that coronavirus (COVID-19) test kits provided to state labs by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were not functioning properly in Wisconsin and in other parts of the country. With one case of coronavirus already confirmed in Wisconsin, I urge you to work quickly to provide functioning test kits to Wisconsin health officials.

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene received a kit from the CDC on February 7th that was meant to allow for coronavirus testing to take place in Wisconsin, but unfortunately the test was not functioning properly. This has forced state health officials to send specimens to CDC headquarters in Atlanta, causing unnecessary delays. Officials with the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene have been waiting on additional guidance from CDC.

I am deeply concerned about the ability to test for coronavirus in Wisconsin. We must have a fast and reliable way to perform testing at the local level in order to give health care professionals the diagnosis they need to begin treating the illness.

Once again, please work to quickly provide functioning test kits to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene and other health officials in Wisconsin and please keep me informed of progress. I appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to hearing back from you in the coming days.

Sincerely,


Ron Kind
Member of Congress