

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 7, 2020

Mark Meadows
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Meadows,

I write to express my serious concerns for the health, safety, and well-being of the individuals who come to work every day at the White House. These individuals—including housekeeping, food service, secret service, maintenance staff and others—deserve the safest possible workplace conditions to help keep themselves, their families, and our communities safe from COVID-19.

My concerns have only grown with recent reports that multiple support staff have contracted COVID-19, likely stemming from contact with President Trump, other White House staff, and non-essential visitors. The President of the United States and his senior aides have access to some of the best medical care in the world, but many White House workers may not. These workers, like many Americans, may have pre-existing conditions that place them at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19, or they may be caring for loved ones who are at greater risk of suffering serious illness or death should they contract the disease. While the President and senior staff have openly flaunted CDC guidelines designed to halt the spread of the virus and the disease, support staff should not be forced to risk exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 in the course of carrying out their essential duties.

To gain a better understanding of the steps you are taking to protect the health and safety of the individuals who work on White House grounds, I respectfully ask for your response to the following questions no later than October 16, 2020:

- What are the White House policies and protocols for informing staff when another staffer, official, or visitor tests positive for COVID-19?
- What are the White House policies and protocols for conducting contact tracing for close contacts of confirmed or likely COVID-19 patients?
- What are the White House policies and protocols for the use of masks on White House grounds, including the residence and the entire Executive Office of the President complex?

- Are all White House staff, including White House residence staff, tested regularly for COVID-19, in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)?
- Is the White House following other CDC guidance to keep employees safe, including the “Guidance for Businesses and Employers,” updated on May 6, 2020?
- Has the White House offered to provide COVID-19 tests to all those who worked during the Rose Garden ceremony on September 26, 2020, including Secret Service and catering staff?
- Understanding the nature of how COVID-19 is spread and the likelihood that the White House’s failure to abide by the District of Columbia’s (D.C.) COVID-19 guidance facilitated spread of the virus in D.C. and surrounding areas, will the White House agree to follow all D.C. COVID-19-related guidance?

Thank you. I look forward to your swift response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. A. B.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator