

October 23, 2020

Dr. Robert R. Redfield  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Redfield:

I write to you today to bring to your attention a request from Yellowstone County, Montana, for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to deploy personnel to provide contact tracing assistance. I respectfully request that the CDC consider Montana's needs during this public health crisis and promptly accommodate Yellowstone County's request for assistance.

Yellowstone County has been one of the most impacted counties in Montana throughout the pandemic, reporting 22% of all reported cases as of October 16, 2020. In fact, Yellowstone County has reported the most cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in Montana during the outbreak thus far. While our local public health leaders are working admirably to combat the spread of this virus, new cases are overwhelming its public health system, and additional support from the CDC to expand capacity for contact tracing would help Yellowstone County quickly identify new cases and break chains of transmission.

As you know, there are several ways local health departments can access additional staffing for COVID-19 contact tracing, including through CDC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In fact, 617 CDC staff have been deployed to work in state, tribal, local, and territorial health agencies to provide assistance during the pandemic, including in Montana. I would respectfully request that the CDC promptly accommodate Yellowstone County's request for contact tracing assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator

CC: FEMA Regional Administrator Lee dePalo