



ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER
HON. STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW

October 19th, 2020

Dr. Gale Burstein, MD
Commissioner
Erie County Department of Health
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Dr. Burstein,

Thank you for your response to my letters on October 6th and 7th pertaining to multiple positive COVID-19 tests by Erie County employees.

None of the specific questions raised were answered in your response. While we all appreciate the work the Erie County Department of Health has put into developing a county-wide internal procedure for handling COVID-19, pointing us to the policy does not answer the many questions and concerns raised by Erie County employees who utilized the Comptroller's Whistleblower Hotline.

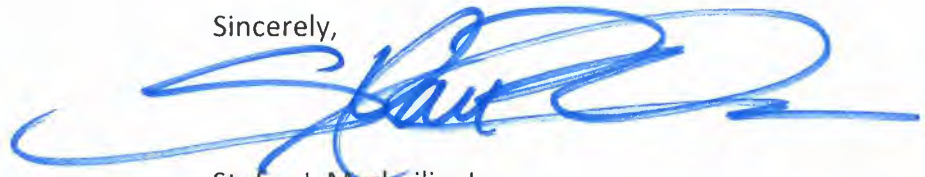
Please provide answers to the following questions:

- What are the dates and times when the individual that tested positive for COVID was in the building at 460 Main Street?
- When did the COVID-19 test come back positive to the County of Erie and the Erie County Health Department?
- How much time elapsed between knowledge of the positive COVID test at 460 Main Street and when staff was notified?
- When were all clients or non-county workers notified of this positive COVID test?
- When did contact tracers begin the process of tracking this specific case?
- Have contact tracers notified all people that were inside 460 Main Street now that a positive COVID case has been confirmed?
- Is testing, rapid or otherwise, being provided to employees, clients and guests who were at the building recently?
- When is the County of Erie notifying the public about this positive COVID test?
- What is being done to reach out to any employees, clients and anyone who may have entered the building?

- Why has the news of this positive COVID test remain a secret, when the county has been quite vocal about previous positive COVID cases across the community?
- What preventive measures are being put in place considering county employees, and others, can be in close proximity of one another and utilize shared spaces like elevators, conference rooms and restrooms?
- What is the plan to contact trace all the people that visited HEAP, Probation, etc.?
- What is the risk of cross contamination of anyone working at 460 Main Street and the Rath Building.
- Will the County of Erie now take temperatures of any individual entering county buildings?
- How many confirmed COVID-19 tests have there been among the county workforce?
- How many positive COVID cases have there been of employees working in the Rath Building?
- What is your plan to test those that came in contact with these two positive cases?
- Is there a plan to increase health screenings in light of these case(s)?
- Why isn't the County of Erie taking temperature checks for any person entering a county building?

I again thank you very much for your prompt attention to this very serious matter. Taxpayers and the Office of Erie County Comptroller look forward to hearing your responses.

Sincerely,



Stefan I. Mychajliw Jr.
Erie County Comptroller

CC: Erie County Legislature