



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

May 25, 2020

Marcia Lee Kelly, President & CEO
Republican National Convention
Post Office Box 31174
Charlotte, NC 28231

Dear President Kelly:

Thank you for taking the time to meet by phone on Friday with Governor Cooper, me and Jordan Whichard. As we discussed, we look forward to continuing to work with you and your team to ensure a safe RNC Convention for your participants and the people of Charlotte. I wanted to reach out today as we saw the tweet from President Trump this morning sharing an accelerated decision-making timeline regarding hosting the Convention in Charlotte.

As we work together, it is important to have a written plan from you and your team as soon as possible for how you plan to approach the COVID-19 safety aspects of the convention. A written plan provides a necessary and valuable starting point to planning discussions with our public health teams at the county and state levels. Jordan Whichard from Governor Cooper's team shared with you the written protocols that NASCAR developed and then refined after discussions with our public health teams which allowed that event to occur in the Charlotte area this past weekend. While the RNC convention is obviously a very different event with its unique challenges for COVID-19, we hoped it would help illustrate the type of plan that would facilitate further conversations.

We also discussed on Friday the need to plan for different levels of impact of COVID-19 so the RNC convention logistics could be tailored to the COVID-19 situation we find ourselves in at the end of August. As you know, North Carolina is now in Phase 2 of easing restrictions but this Saturday we saw our highest day of new lab confirmed COVID-19 cases in North Carolina. The status of COVID-19 infections in our state and in the Charlotte area continues to rapidly evolve, thus, it will be important to have several scenarios planned that can be deployed depending on the public health situation.

I am scheduled to speak with Dr. Jeff Runge first thing tomorrow (May 26th), and I will share with him this same request regarding a written plan to begin discussions and the need to have different scenarios in those plans.

These measured and careful planning efforts are important not only to convention-goers, but also to the North Carolinians who rely on us to protect the public's health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mandy K. Cohen".

Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary