



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

May 29, 2020

Ronna McDaniel
Chairwoman of the Republican National Committee
310 First Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

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

Dear Chairwoman McDaniel and President Kelly:

Thank you for your letter to Governor Cooper yesterday outlining the steps you intend to take to ensure a safe 2020 Republican National Convention in Charlotte. We have appreciated our conversations with you and the Convention Committee staff, and your acknowledgement that a successful convention this August will need to be scaled-back and require significant measures to protect the health and safety of delegates and participants, as well as the health of the people of North Carolina.

The CDC currently has [interim guidance regarding mass gatherings](#) which details a number of safety protocols that organizers of major events should utilize amid this pandemic. We would ask that the RNC further elaborate on its plans to protect convention participants and the people of Charlotte in accordance with the CDC guidance. Specifically:

- How many delegates, alternates, elected officials, guests and media do you expect to be in attendance inside the Spectrum Center for each night of the Convention? How does the RNC plan to have participants social distance while in the Spectrum Center?
- How will the RNC implement health screenings, social distancing, face coverings, hand hygiene and other cleaning protocols at all RNC sanctioned events in the Charlotte area, including welcome parties, state party events, media events, finance events, caucus

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meetings, committee meetings, receptions and other party business meetings and gatherings?

- During our phone conversation on Tuesday, May 26, you indicated a desire from President Trump to hold Thursday's nomination event with "people together in a crowd-like setting" and without social distancing or face coverings for attendees. While the letter did not address this specifically, is this still the intent? You also mentioned testing for all participants before they enter the Spectrum Center for the Thursday event. Is this still a consideration? Would this be limited to Thursday night or would it apply to the other nights of the Convention?
- How will the RNC isolate individuals who do not pass the thermal and health screenings outlined in the letter? How will contact tracing be conducted for others with whom they may have come in contact?
- Given the evidence of asymptomatic spread of COVID-19, what additional precautions will the RNC take to prevent spread of the virus?

We know that it is possible to have a large-scale event during these trying times. We shared with President Kelly a plan submitted by [NASCAR](#) that our public health team was able to review and provide feedback on, which resulted in a successful Memorial Day race at the Charlotte Motor Speedway last weekend.

Additionally, while North Carolina is now in Phase 2 of easing restrictions, this past week we had our highest day of new lab confirmed COVID-19 cases in the state, and we have increasing numbers of people hospitalized with COVID-19. 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.

The State continues to support the hosting of the Republican National Convention in Charlotte if it can be done safely. We remain committed to working with you on an event that adequately protects both attendees and the people of North Carolina.

Sincerely,



Mandy Cohen MD, MPH
Secretary
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services