

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 28, 2019

Acting Director Ronald D. Vitiello  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Acting Director Vitiello:

We write with serious concerns about the public health risks and treatment of detainees at detention facilities operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) and contract facilities nationwide. We believe that recent viral disease outbreaks at detention facilities across the country merit strengthened oversight, an evaluation of existing procedures (including reporting to local, state, and federal public health agencies), and an assessment of your agency’s response to emergent health issues.

According to news reports, detention facilities in Colorado, Arizona, and Texas have instituted quarantines resulting from viral disease outbreaks among their detainee populations. Despite these public health issues, ICE appears to be expanding capacity at – and transferring detainees into – facilities impacted by these outbreaks. In addition, we have received no indication that ICE will provide additional health care staff or resources to address this issue. For example, at the detention center in Aurora, Colorado there has been nearly a 40 percent increase in detainee population (with no known increase in medical staff) while over 260 detainees are reported to be quarantined.

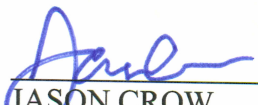
These incidents have raised serious questions about the existing public health standards and procedures in ICE detention facilities, medical staffing levels, and the rationale behind detainee transfers. As part of our duty to conduct federal oversight and ensure the safety and well-being of detainees and our constituents, we respectfully request that you respond to the following questions:

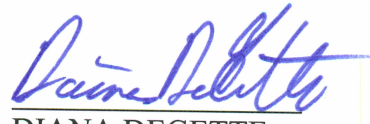
1. How many and what kind of outbreaks have occurred at ICE and contract detention facilities nationwide in the past 12 months and how many of those did the ICE Health Service Corps oversee?
2. What is the ICE Health Service Corps protocol for treating these diseases, including the protocol to quarantine detainees?
3. How is the ICE Health Service Corps ensuring that detainees are treated properly, humanely, and with dignity while in quarantine?
4. Please provide a list of ICE-owned and operated and contracted detention facilities that ICE Health Service Corps has treated for a disease outbreak and/or quarantine.
5. How many inter-facility detainee transfers have occurred in the last 12 months nationwide and how many of the detainees has ICE Health Service Corps determined to have had a viral disease?

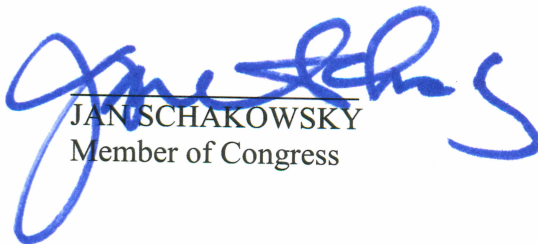
6. What is the ICE Health Service Corps protocol for ensuring that newly-transferred detainees do not pose a health risk to themselves or other detainees?
7. What ICE Health Service Corps guidance is in place to prevent communicable diseases from spreading among detainee populations?
8. Which agency is responsible for oversight of the ICE Health Service Corps protocols?
9. What role does the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention play in responding to public health risks at ICE and contract detention facilities?

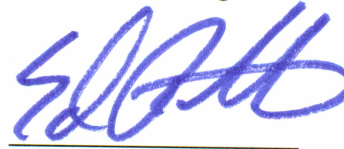
Thank you for your consideration and prompt reply to these questions.


Sincerely,


  
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JASON CROW  
Member of Congress

  
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DIANA DEGETTE  
Member of Congress


  
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JAN SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress

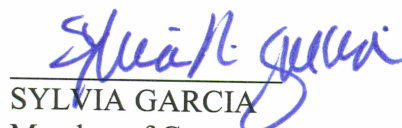
  
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Member of Congress

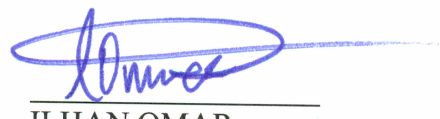
  
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LINDA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress

  
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BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN  
Member of Congress

  
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ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Member of Congress

  
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JOE NEGUSE  
Member of Congress

  
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SYLVIA GARCIA  
Member of Congress

  
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ILHAN OMAR  
Member of Congress