



SENATOR JON MORGAN  
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 23

March 20, 2020

Commissioner Lori Shibinette  
NH Department of Health and Human Services  
129 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: The Immediate Implementation of a "Shelter-In-Place" Order

Commissioner Shibinette:

Following careful consideration, the leadership of Exeter Hospital, the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce, School Administrative Unit 16, Phillips Exeter Academy, the Exeter Select Board, the Exeter Town Manager, and Riverwoods are joining together to call on you to recommend to the Governor the issuance of an immediate "shelter-in-place" order.

In the absence of an immediate and dramatic increase in both Covid-19 testing capacity and availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders and health care professionals, the State must implement an immediate emergency order to stop all non-essential out of home activity statewide ("shelter in place"). Following the lead of several other states and municipalities, essential activities exempted from this order would obviously need to include food shopping, pharmacy, and home needs, emergency medical needs, banking, and isolated exercise.

We believe the current inability to initiate or maintain broad-based Covid-19 testing across the general community without any currently viable commercial option negates our ability to understand or respond effectively or efficiently to the spread or prevalence of the virus. Hospitals, healthcare providers, and emergency responders across the state are currently facing dwindling supplies of the personal protective equipment needed to meet the growing future demand and we need significant help from both the federal and state governments to get us the supplies we need to safely care for our patients and the community.

Operating under the State's current strict testing guidelines, which are driven by a current lack of supplies and processing capacity, healthcare providers will be forced to only test the sickest and most at-risk patients, sending others to recover at home without confirmation of their status or an ability to track their progress or intervene proactively to limit their individual risk to the wider community. The lack of state-led broad-based community testing means healthcare providers in our community will also need to start treating everyone as a potential risk, further exacerbating the current drain on their resources and the supplies necessary to safely treat the most acutely ill of our infected citizens.

In our community, these issues are very real, as is the threat that they will quickly worsen based on the examples we can see across the country and across the world. Without broad-based testing and the critical information, it provides our leaders, our citizens, and our health systems, we are operating



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without the necessary ability to respond to the spread of the virus or even understand how many of our citizens are already infected. What we do know is that Covid-19 has already grown into a healthcare crisis that is challenging the sustainability of our local health system and other health systems across the state. Without immediate intervention, our community and all of NH could find itself with a significantly decreased ability to provide critical, life-saving services.

For the safety of our region, our citizens, our first responders, and our patients we urge you to recommend the immediate implementation of a "shelter-in-place" order. It is the only intervention that has a hope of decreasing transmission in our communities while the prevalence and spread of coronavirus remain undetermined.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Morgan".

Jon Morgan, State Senator District 23

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Callahan".

Kevin J. Callahan, CEO and President of Exeter Health Resources

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Wheeler".

Jennifer Wheeler, President of Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ryan".

David Ryan, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools for SAU16

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William K. Rawson".

William K. Rawson, Principal of Phillips Exeter Academy



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Niko Papakonstantis".

Niko Papakonstantis, Chair of Exeter Select Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Molly Cowan".

Molly Cowan, Vice-Chair of Exeter Select Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justine Vogel".

Justine Vogel, CEO of Riverwoods

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russel Dean".

Russel Dean, Exeter Town Manager