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NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ZELNOR Y. MYRIE
20TH SENATE DISTRICT

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Dr. Mary T. Bassett, Acting Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237
VIA E-MAIL

January 5, 2022

Dear Dr. Bassett,

As the COVID pandemic continues to spike in New York State, demand for PCR and rapid antigen testing is at an all-time high. In addition to the testing locations operated by the City, the State and its partner providers, my office is aware of several private companies that have recently opened testing sites in Brooklyn.

I am troubled by reports that some of these sites may be ordering unnecessary lab tests and billing patients or insurance carriers accordingly. Other sites are asking for patients' immigration status, charging hidden or questionable fees for service, turning away patients without insurance, and falsely guaranteeing quick test results. Moreover, many of these sites have names or signage that closely approximate official City and State logos, making it hard for patients to distinguish among providers. While I am grateful that sites are appearing to meet increased demand, it is essential that the State assists consumers to make informed choices, and takes quick action to stop fraudulent or deceptive practices.

Accordingly, please share the relevant guidelines or standards that regulate private COVID testing pop-up sites so that I may share them with my constituents. **I believe the Department of Health should develop and publicize clear, plain-language standards for sites that are already operating and those that may open in the future. These guidelines will help my constituents understand the different types of COVID testing locations and services they may provide, what to expect when seeking care, their rights as patients, and how to file a complaint.**

On behalf of the residents of the 20th Senate District, thank you for your continued efforts to protect the health and well-being of all New Yorkers during this extraordinary period.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zellnor Y. Myrie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Zellnor Y. Myrie
New York State Senator
Senate District 20

cc: New York City Health + Hospitals Test and Trace Corps