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RANKING MEMBER



Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
17th District, New York

August 10, 2015

Director Tom Frieden
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Frieden:

As New York battles the recent outbreak of Legionnaire's disease, I ask that you swiftly use the powers of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to coordinate with State and local health professionals in New York to combat this illness beyond New York City.

Since the recent Legionnaire's outbreak began in the South Bronx on July 10, 2015, ten New Yorkers have lost their lives and over 100 have contracted the illness. I was alarmed to learn that another case of Legionnaire's disease was recently confirmed in Rockland County, and that the patient, who thankfully received treatment, appears not to be connected with the contaminated areas suspected of causing this illness in the South Bronx.

As a result, it is now clear that CDC's assistance should extend outside of New York City to the surrounding counties to provide information to physicians on how to identify and treat Legionnaire's disease, conduct surveillance of cases to identify potential causes, and coordinate with local health officials, including the Rockland County Health Department, on best practices and recommendations to stop the spread of this disease.

The outbreak of Legionnaire's disease has been the largest in New York City's history, and it is imperative that steps be taken to protect the health and safety of New Yorkers so the number of illnesses does not continue to climb statewide. I ask that you extend the CDC's expertise to and respond expeditiously to any requests for assistance from Rockland County and other suburban health departments to ensure that the spread of this deadly illness is stemmed.

Sincerely,



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

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