

Dr. Rachel Levine  
Secretary of Health  
625 Forster St  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

April 13, 2020

Secretary Levine:

The 26 undersigned organizations write to you with profound gratitude for your historic leadership during this crisis. The global COVID-19 pandemic is causing incredible challenges for the health of all Pennsylvanians, including LGBT Pennsylvanians. Due to LGBT population disparities in tobacco use, HIV incidence, and cancer diagnosis, as well as a history of barriers to care and discrimination, LGBT Pennsylvanians live with increased risk factors and vulnerabilities for COVID-19 infection.

Early epidemiological analyses have spotlighted disparities in death rates for both African American and Latinx populations; these are exactly the type of analyses that also need to be conducted for the LGBT population. In order to do so, it is critical that hospitals and testing sites collect LGBT demographic data from COVID-19 patients (testing results, hospitalizations, and mortality). Without these data, efforts to limit exposure for the LGBT community through behavioral change (including community adherence to the sound direction from PA Department of Health and the CDC), as well as clinical efforts to improve care for adversely impacted populations, will be limited.

We understand that many hospitals and clinics are overwhelmed. And we know that some have not complied with your mandate regarding data collection efforts for other adversely impacted populations. However many hospitals are complying. **We are asking that you utilize your power as Secretary of Health to mandate LGBT demographic data collection related to COVID-19 testing, diagnosis, hospitalization, and mortality in Pennsylvania.**

Secretary Levine, we also want to take an opportunity in this letter to thank you for your incredible leadership in the face of this scary pandemic. Your calming presence has been helpful for many Pennsylvanians and you are a role model that LGBT Pennsylvanians are looking up to during these challenging times.

To follow up with our organizations with regard to this request, please contact Adrian Shanker at [adrian@bradburysullivancenter.org](mailto:adrian@bradburysullivancenter.org).

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT  
Community Center  
National LGBT Cancer Network  
Alder Health Services  
Centerlink: The Community of  
LGBT Centers  
GALAEI  
Greater Erie Alliance for Equality  
Hangin Out in Hanover  
Healthy York County Coalition  
Keystone Business Alliance

Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition  
Latinos de York  
LGBT Center of Central PA  
LGBT Center of Greater Reading  
LGBT Equality Alliance of  
Chester County  
New Hope Celebrates  
Planned Parenthood Keystone  
PFLAG York  
Philadelphia Family Pride  
Pride Fest of Central PA

Rainbow Rose Center  
Spectrum York  
Trans Advocacy PA  
TriVersity Center for Gender and  
Sexual Diversity  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of York  
Union Lutheran Church, York  
York City Council