



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

May 18, 2020

Distinguished Members of Congress
(See enclosed list)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Requesting Members of Congress:

Thank you for your April 28, 2020 letter asking us to conduct site visits to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities to identify and assess whether the facilities' operations, management, standards, and conditions have sufficiently changed to address the threat of COVID-19 to both the staff and detained population. You also requested that we examine and assess the sufficiency of policies and practices in place at each facility to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to respond to four specific questions in your letter as part of our review.

We are planning a review of ICE's efforts to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in its facilities. The objective of our planned review is to determine whether ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) effectively managed the crisis at its detention facilities and adequately safeguarded the health and safety of both detainees in their custody and their staff.

In addition, we are currently conducting a remote inspection of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and ICE's ability to manage the COVID-19 pandemic at their facilities with respect to staff and the detainees in their custody. Our review will collect information through an electronic survey sent to every detention facility that asks, among other things, about the effects of the pandemic on staffing numbers and staffing contingency plans, the availability of personal protective equipment and other resources for staff, the ability to maintain proper hygiene among detainees, and the facilities' testing protocols and testing capacity. We expect to issue a final report this summer.

Any additional COVID-related work that we initiate in the future will be posted both on our website, at <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/reports/ongoing-projects>, and on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee's website at <https://pandemic.oversight.gov/oversight/ongoing-work>.



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Please call me with questions, or a member of your staff may contact Rachel Magnus, Office of External Affairs, at (202) 981-6000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph V. Cuffari". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Joseph V. Cuffari, Ph.D.
Inspector General



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Department of Homeland Security

Letter to the Requesting Members of Congress:

The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
The Honorable Tim Kaine
The Honorable Mazie Hirono
The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
The Honorable Sherrod Brown
The Honorable Edward J. Markey
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
The Honorable Corey A. Booker
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
The Honorable Robert Menendez
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Jacky Rosen
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Martin Heinrich
The Honorable Mark R. Warner
The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand