

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Sat, 11 Apr 2020 16:25:18 -0400
To: Evans, Michele (NIH/NIA/IRP) [E]
Subject: Re: Covid-19 Health Disparities

Michele:

Many thanks for your note.
Best regards,
Tony

On Apr 7, 2020, at 8:28 PM, Evans, Michele (NIH/NIA/IRP) [E]

(b) (6) wrote:

Dear Dr. Fauci,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for highlighting the health disparities and disproportionate burden of disease influencing outcome of Covid-19 infections in African Americans. Participants in my observational, longitudinal, epidemiologic Baltimore-based study, HANDLS <https://handls.nih.gov/> are terrified by the level of disease they are seeing in their communities across Baltimore. We have been on the phone with and texting participants to educate them, support them in their efforts to get tested, remind them of the importance of social distancing and self-isolation when appropriate to protect their health. We are acutely aware of their fragility. Testing in Baltimore is limited. The National Guard has set up community testing at the Pimlico Race Track; however, although we have deployed our mobile medical research vehicles to Pimlico in the past to conduct our study, the current crime rate is such that our participants and community residents in general do not go to the Pimlico area especially if they are on foot. The other issue with testing for African Americans and our participants is the need to have a health care provider that one can contract to discuss symptoms to get a referral for testing. The unravelling of the Affordable Care Act has severely impacted access for African Americans across the nation and especially in Baltimore. Our participants are calling my staff clinician and nurse practitioner for referrals if they have symptoms. We have reached out to colleagues at