



Office of Inspector General
United States Department of State

July 17, 2020

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations

Dear Chairman Connolly:

In response to your June 15, 2020, letter requesting that the Department of State Office of Inspector General (OIG) review the Department of State's (Department) office reopening efforts, OIG is scoping a review that will describe the Department's plans and procedures for returning employees to work during the coronavirus pandemic. The review will also describe the methods outlined in the Department's reopening plans and procedures to address the safety and welfare considerations of employees and contractors. More specifically, the review will:

1. Describe the extent to which the Department collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to ensure reopening plans are consistent with public health and worker safety guidelines;
2. Describe the methodology adopted by the Department to assess when Department employees are advised, or required, to return to Federal offices;
3. Ascertain the extent to which the Department has established baseline metrics on certain indicators relevant to implementation of the reopening plan, including the number of employees who have contracted the coronavirus;
4. Describe how the Department has assessed the need for, and obtained, critical resources, including reliable coronavirus tests, personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, soap and warm water, workplace dividers and disinfectant; and
5. Explain the Department protocols for circumstances in which an employee tests positive for coronavirus.

If you have any questions, please contact me or the Director of Congressional Affairs, Ryan Holden, at (571) 349-9259 or ryan.d.holden@stateoig.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Akard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Stephen J. Akard
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of State Office of Inspector General

cc:

The Honorable Jody. B. Hice, Ranking Member
House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations