



August 11, 2022

**DELIVERED BY EMAIL**

The Honorable Kiran Ahuja  
Director  
Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20415

The Honorable Jason Miller  
Deputy Director for Management  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Kiran and Jason:

In light of the CDC guidance [loosening its testing and quarantine policies](#), I am calling on the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force to immediately end the screening testing program for federal employees across government. The new CDC guidance makes clear that widespread screening testing is no longer recommended. In the [revised guidance](#), the CDC states: “Recommending screening testing of asymptomatic people without known exposures will no longer be recommended in most community settings.”

Ending the screening testing program for federal workers in particular makes sense considering the extremely high vaccination rates among federal employees, as well as the high cost both in time and money to federal agencies of operating a program that does little to protect the workforce.

As I previously stated in my letter dated June 15, 2022, the current screening testing program only requires the small percentage of employees who are not fully vaccinated to be tested. We know from experience that federal employees who are fully vaccinated continue to contract and spread COVID-19.

The money allocated for testing could be better spent on more effective ways to protect employees. With the decreased emphasis on social distancing, I am also asking the Task Force to recommend that agencies provide high quality masks for workers, prioritize efforts to improve ventilation systems and air quality, continue to encourage enhanced cleaning of office spaces and maximize telework where possible.

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With the focus shifting to protecting highly vulnerable people, I ask that the Task Force advise agencies to prioritize requests for reasonable accommodations regarding telework for those employees with serious health issues.

NTEU continues to have concerns about inadequate leave for telework-ineligible employees who contract COVID-19 at work and must isolate. Employees who contract COVID-19 multiple times or must care for family members too often are having to take leave without pay.

I would appreciate a prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony M. Reardon  
National President