

**FRANK BURNS, MEMBER**  
72ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
535 FAIRFIELD AVENUE  
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15906  
(814) 536-8400  
FAX: (814) 533-2368

119 S. CENTER STREET  
EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15931  
(814) 472-8021  
FAX: (814) 472-1965

112-A MUNSTER ROAD  
PORTAGE, PENNSYLVANIA 15946  
(814) 736-7339 OR (814) 736-6452  
FAX: (814) 736-3233



**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
325 MAIN CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 202072  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2072  
(717) 772-8056  
FAX: (717) 772-9965

**COMMITTEES**

NORTHWEST DELEGATION, CHAIRMAN  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
LIQUOR CONTROL  
TOURISM & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS

May 4, 2020

Secretary Rachel Levine  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor West, Health and Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

RE: Detailed Explanation of Reopening Criteria

Dear Dr. Levine:

I was stunned Friday at the exclusion of Cambria County from the area that would move from red to yellow and begin a phased reopening on May 8. Every taxpayer and business owner in my county deserves a detailed explanation of why Cambria County was not moved to the yellow zone.

We all know the only numeric metric for reopening you have made public: 50 cases per 100,000 residents over 14 days. Cambria County easily meets this threshold as, thankfully, we have not had even 50 cases in total. How are we to understand why we cannot reopen when we've hit the only benchmark we know?

This lack of transparency is unacceptable. You have said there are other metrics to consider in reopening counties, yet neither you nor Gov. Wolf have made them public. If more testing must be available, how many testing kits are needed? If hospital capacity is a factor, how many beds are considered sufficient? And if contact tracing must be in place, how many trained people do we need? If our residents and businesses know the guidelines for reopening, we will turn all our attention to meeting them.

It is wildly unfair to continue to lump Cambria County in with Pittsburgh – and hide behind vague metrics to do so. Allegheny County's population density is 7.5 times greater than Cambria County. There is no way that my residents and small business owners should be held back by the urban areas harder hit by the virus and in a much different position to move forward.

We deserve a detailed explanation for how reopenings are determined. I will continue to demand answers from this administration until there is full transparency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Frank Burns'.

Frank Burns  
72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District