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August 10, 2026

The Honorable Michael Lawler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lawler:

Thank you for your letter to the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., regarding the addition of new cancer screenings to the tests covered by the [World Trade Center \(WTC\) Health Program](#). I am pleased to respond on behalf of Secretary Kennedy.

As you know, early detection of cancer can lead to more positive health outcomes. The WTC Health Program currently provides coverage for periodic cancer screenings of asymptomatic members for breast, cervical, colorectal, and lung cancer. The WTC Health Program also covers other cancer testing as part of a diagnostic workup for members with signs or symptoms associated with certain types of cancer.

The WTC Health Program's [2014 Policy and Procedures for Cancer Screening](#) details the current process by which the WTC Health Program determines whether to provide coverage for a particular cancer screening.¹ As explained in the *Policy and Procedures*, the WTC Health Program coverage benefit for various types of cancer screenings is based on recommendations provided by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). The WTC Health Program closely monitors USPSTF recommendations for cancer screenings and accepts recommendations that are rated "Grade A" or "Grade B" by the USPSTF.

However, the science supporting cancer screening is advancing rapidly. The variety of screening tests available for any one type of cancer is expanding, and the recommended ages at which various cancer screenings should begin are being reevaluated.² In light of these developments, the WTC Health Program is currently reviewing its cancer screening policy.

As part of this review, the WTC Health Program is examining whether it may be appropriate to consider a broader scope of sources for determining coverage of cancer screening. Other sources being considered include benchmarking to other federal health care programs such as those programs administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. For example, the WTC Health Program could align with

¹ See https://www.cdc.gov/wtc/pdfs/policies/WTCHP_PP_CancerScreening04022014-508.pdf.

² Wolf AMD, Hoffman RM, Walter LC. [2026]. Colorectal cancer screening: An update to the American Cancer Society Guideline, 2026. CA Cancer J Clin e70083, <https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.70083>.

current coverage benefits provided by Medicare Part B for prostate cancer screening; Medicare Part B prostate cancer screening includes digital rectal examination and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test screenings beginning at age 50 years.³ Other cancer screening coverage similar to that provided by Medicare, being considered by the WTC Health Program, includes screenings that are not facilitated by a blood test but rather as a specialty-provider patient examination for high-risk individuals. Any changes to the WTC Health Program's cancer screening policy will be announced on the WTC Health Program's website and communicated to members and providers promptly.

I appreciate your letter and support, and that of Congress overall. If you have further questions regarding cancer screening offered by the WTC Health Program, please contact the CDC Washington Office at (202) 245-0600 or CDCWashington@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,

John J.
Howard -
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Digitally signed
by John J.
Howard -S
Date: 2026.08.10
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John Howard, M.D.
Administrator
World Trade Center Health Program

Cc:

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
The Honorable Cory A. Booker
The Honorable Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat
The Honorable Brian K. Fitzpatrick
The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino
The Honorable Laura A. Gillen
The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
The Honorable Dan Goldman
The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
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The Honorable Timothy M. Kennedy
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The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
The Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi
The Honorable Elise M. Stefanik
The Honorable Claudia Tenney
The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
The Honorable Ritchie Torres

³ See <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/prostate-cancer-screenings>.