



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

*Richard C. David, Mayor*  
*Jared M. Kraham, Deputy*  
*Donna Ferranti, Secretary*

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

On Thursday, I joined representatives from United Health Services (UHS) and Rheonix Inc. to announce a same-day COVID-19 virus testing partnership with the City of Binghamton.

The City of Binghamton has supplied UHS, one of our region's leading healthcare provider, with a fully automated Rheonix Encompass MDx<sup>®</sup> workstation for COVID-19 virus testing. Rheonix Inc., of Ithaca, received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on April 29. Impressed by our plan and the technology, UHS will purchase an additional workstation, which will enable us to locally process up to 200 tests per day, or 1,400 per week, on the two machines.

With your announcement Monday that diagnostic testing capacity will be a core factor in regional economic re-opening, improved testing is important, now more than ever. The City identified a Southern Tier firm and cutting-edge COVID-19 virus testing technology and quickly put it to work. It's a great New York story — the hardworking and innovative roots of the Southern Tier are strong in this collaboration between local government, hospitals and a cutting-edge health tech firm.

Our partnership with Rheonix and UHS will increase local testing capacity, as testing in Broome County to date has frankly lagged behind our neighboring counties, based on New York State Department of Health data. These testing workstations will put our community in a stronger position to re-open our economy and let residents get back to work safely.

Binghamton has always prided itself on leading by example. We are the first municipality in the nation to utilize the Rheonix technology. If needed, the City will buy more testing equipment to improve the testing rate and give healthcare professionals the tools and technology they need to keep our community safe.

I thank you for your steadfast leadership during this crisis. As always, the City of Binghamton and I are ready to assist you in any way as New York continues to move forward in our recovery.

Sincerely,

Richard C. David  
Mayor