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November 5, 2019

Elizabeth Ward, PhD  
Chair, World Trade Center Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee

Dear Dr. Ward:

Thank you for your letter of October 28, 2019 conveying the views of the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee arising from their last meeting in New York City on September 18, 2019.

Currently, the WTC Health Program Associate Administrator, RADM Dori Reissman, M.D., and her staff are working with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to evaluate the feasibility of assembling the 9/11 Children's Study cohort. This effort involves the use of historical New York City Department of Education school register records to professionally trace the students and their parents/guardians in order to obtain contact information of students exposed to 9/11, and a demographically similar comparison group of "unexposed" students, for potential participation in the cohort. A report on the feasibility is expected by early Spring 2020. After receiving the report, I will evaluate how best to conduct research on the health and educational impacts of the WTC disaster in children.

I appreciate your leadership of the WTC Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee and the commitment of the Committee members.

Sincerely,

John Howard  
Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and  
Administrator, World Trade Center Health Program