

January 21, 2021

Dr. Rochelle Walensky
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dr. David Kessler
Co-Chair, COVID-19 Advisory Board
Biden Transition Office
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20230

General Gustave Perna
Chief Operating Officer, Operation Warp Speed
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

RE: Need for Transparency in COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Schedule

Dear Dr. Walensky, General Perna, and Dr. Kessler:

The undersigned healthcare organizations applaud the recent decision to release available COVID-19 vaccine doses to providers. However, in order for healthcare professionals to fully utilize the supply of vaccine, they must have visibility into the expected availability of future doses. **To expedite vaccinations, we ask that the federal government share, with states and providers, the anticipated lot release dates for vaccine doses purchased through Operation Warp Speed.**

Mass administration of vaccines requires significant staff resources and logistics coordination. Currently, hospitals, community pharmacies, long-term care pharmacies, and other points of dispensing lack transparency into how many doses will be available and when. This makes planning and communicating with patients about vaccination scheduling very difficult.

Further, both the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna vaccines require the administration of two doses for the vaccines to be fully effective in protecting individuals from COVID-19. In order for providers to administer an initial dose of these vaccines, they must have confidence that sufficient supply will be available to administer the second dose, based on the timing indicated in the Food and Drug Administration's emergency use authorizations. Without greater transparency into the anticipated availability of future doses, providers have no assurance that sufficient supply will be available to complete vaccination courses for patients who have received an initial dose.

The U.S. government could mitigate potential delays by sharing anticipated lot release dates from manufacturers. This would give providers more clarity as they plan mass administration efforts and greater confidence that second doses will be available when their patients need them. We recognize that creating allocation schedules may not be possible at the provider level, but state or national level schedules would go a long way to addressing challenges and would significantly expedite vaccinations. A similar model was used this past summer for the government's allocation of remdesivir. For that product, a weekly dashboard of allocations per state was also provided by the Department of Health and Human Services to make the process more transparent for healthcare providers. We encourage you to take a similar approach for vaccines acquired through Operation Warp Speed.

Thank you for your consideration as our members continue working to meet our nation's vaccination goals. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists)
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
America's Essential Hospitals
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
National Pharmaceutical Association
Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists
Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists
California Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Colorado Pharmacists Society
Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Hawaii Pharmacists Association
Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists
Indiana Pharmacists Association

Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Massachusetts Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Mississippi Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Missouri Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Montana Pharmacists Association
Nebraska Pharmacists Association
New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists
New York Council of Health-System Pharmacists
North Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Oklahoma Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin
South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Vermont Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists