

January 19, 2021

President-Elect Joseph R. Biden
Biden Transition Office
1401 Constitution Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C., 20230

RE: Deploy Federal Resources alongside Hospitals and Community Pharmacies to Vaccinate Americans

Dear President-Elect Biden:

In order to meet your goal of vaccinating 100 million people during your first 100 days in office, the undersigned health systems and healthcare organizations urge you take immediate steps, upon your inauguration, to activate federal resources, including the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to operate mass vaccination sites across the country, to supplement vaccination efforts already underway at hospitals and community pharmacies.

Our nation's public health infrastructure is falling short in its ability to rapidly vaccinate Americans against COVID-19. Many hospitals are overwhelmed treating critically ill patients and do not have sufficient resources to administer vaccinations at the unprecedented scale this pandemic requires. Yet, federal and state governments have failed to develop adequate mechanisms to ensure all Americans can receive lifesaving vaccinations.

We applaud the government's decision to expand the vaccinator workforce by utilizing community pharmacies across the country to offer vaccinations, but states lack sufficient public health staff and resources while funding appropriated to support vaccine distribution has yet to reach the states. A multipronged approach is necessary.

The slow ramp up in vaccinations has demonstrated that using federal organizations to operate mass vaccination sites operating around the clock, in addition to vaccination efforts at hospitals and community pharmacies, will be necessary to ensure that any American who wants the vaccine can get it, as soon as doses become available. The decision to release all vaccine doses for immediate administration makes this need even more acute.

We further urge you to expand the vaccinator workforce by utilizing the millions of students in pharmacy, nursing, and medicine and retired healthcare workers who are trained and willing to volunteer to support our nation's most important vaccination effort in a generation.

We can meet your goal of vaccinating 100 million people in 100 days if the efforts of our nation's hospitals and pharmacies are supplemented by the unmatched resources of the federal government, including using the DoD, VA, USPHS, and FEMA to operate mass vaccination sites across the country.

Sincerely,

ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists)
American Academy of Neurology
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Arizona Pharmacists Association
Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists

Avera Health
Baptist Health
Bon Secours Mercy Health
California Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Colegio de Farmaceuticos de Puerto Rico
Colorado Pharmacists Society
Cone Health

Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Hawaii Pharmacists Association
Henry Ford Health System
Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists
Indiana Pharmacists Association
Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacists
Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Lee Health
Legacy Health
Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Massachusetts Society of Health-System
Pharmacists
MedStar Health
Methodist Health System
Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Mississippi Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Missouri Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Nevada Society of Health-System Pharmacists
New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists
New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists
New York State Council of Health-System
Pharmacists
North Carolina Association of Pharmacists, Health-
System Practice Forum
North Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists
OSF Healthcare
Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Providence St. Joseph Health
South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Tennessee Pharmacists Association
UnityPoint Health
UVA Health
Vidant Health
Virginia Mason Medical Center
Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists