

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 13, 2020

The Honorable Robert R. Redfield, M.D.
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Director Redfield:

As the nation continues to battle the coronavirus of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and prepares for the distribution of a safe and effective vaccine, we write to encourage cooperation between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of New Jersey, and local health departments within the state. Once a vaccine is approved or authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and made available to patients, coordination of all levels of government will be necessary to successfully carry out the largest vaccination campaign in our nation's history.

We appreciate that CDC and New Jersey have already begun planning for the distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine. Last month, your agency issued its *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations*, outlining the steps state jurisdictions should be taking now to ensure they are prepared for vaccine distribution and administration, and requiring states to submit plans by October 16. While, as the playbook notes, there are many things we do not yet know, including which vaccines will be available, when, and in what quantities, preparing now will help the federal government, state, and local public health departments strategize, allocate resources, and identify any gaps in resources before the distribution of a vaccine.

As New Jersey prepares its plan for submission, we are encouraged that the state is setting an ambitious target of vaccinating 70 percent of the public. Of course, this will not happen overnight, and not without significant financial investment. From additional workforce needs to personal protective equipment (PPE), cold storage capacity, technological infrastructure, and public outreach and awareness, already scarce resources will be stretched even further. We stand ready to support the state in its goals, including by providing additional federal financial resources. We encourage you to ensure CDC allocates these public health resources fully and equitably. As one of the most diverse states in the country, we also recognize that communities will have differing needs. Involvement and cooperation of local health departments and community organizations, as well as the state, will be critical to ensuring a vaccine is distributed effectively.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. While distributing and administering a COVID-19 vaccine will be challenging and complex, the seriousness of the disease will not allow us any room

for error. We look forward to working with you, the State of New Jersey, and local health officials to ensure New Jerseyans' needs are met and all necessary resources are available.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
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Mikie Sherrill
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Albio Sires
Member of Congress