



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

March 19, 2021

Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Alison Beam
Acting Secretary of Health
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf and Acting Secretary Beam,

We are writing to you today regarding the concern we all share in both Bucks and Montgomery Counties as it relates to the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Collectively, we local leaders believe the regional vaccination approach, if executed, will not be in the best interest of the many residents who reside within our community that will now be forced to travel far distances to obtain a vaccine. It is critical that we have a plan in place that is based on the individual and puts our residents first to efficiently get vaccinations in arms. Further, this proposed plan will cause confusion throughout the current vaccination operation system as we continue to vaccinate our 1A eligible residents.

Since the onset of the pandemic, our belief has always been the response should be based on a county centralized plan. We have spoken with county officials and one thing is clear – Bucks and Montgomery counties have the existing infrastructure and resources to handle an influx of direct shipments if the state decides to forgo the mass vaccination centers and send those earmarked allocations to the counties equally. As local leaders, we respectfully ask for consideration to abandon the current plan to create one or two mass vaccination sites that would cover the span of 4 counties and ask that the vaccines be allotted to the counties. The counties already have the existing vaccination sites, that could more effectively and conveniently vaccinate our residents. To support the county first approach, we ask that you consider the following points:

- It is indisputable that there is a significant backlog of residents who registered on the county portals that are awaiting an appointment for the vaccine solely because the counties have not received enough vaccines to meet demand.
- Creating one or two locations which would require substantial travel while not increasing the amounts allotted to the counties will not help in vaccinating our residents who do not have the ability to travel, nor help vaccinate our seniors who are the most vulnerable population.
- By instead giving the counties the allocations allotted to the regional vaccination site, it will assist in the scheduling of more than 100,000 1A residents each have Bucks and Montgomery counties that have yet to receive a vaccination date. Additionally, this will mean the counties would be able to utilize the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to vaccinate those who are homebound or reside in nursing homes or long-term care facilities.

- Considering the National Guard is currently responsible for distribution, it would require minimum effort to distribute the vaccine to 4 locations rather than just 1 – especially if it means saving resources to not assemble a new mass vaccination site by utilizing the existing infrastructure and having more convenient locations for all residents.
- The State proved with the educator vaccination plan that they can in fact utilize the existing infrastructure in the counties to mass vaccinate residents that fall under phase 1 in 28 separate locations throughout the commonwealth and not use a regional approach in the southeastern region as outlined in this proposed plan.
- By creating a new portal for residents to register for the vaccine, this new portal will potentially create discrepancies between the existing county lists as residents will now be registered in multiple mass vaccination locations.

It is critical that we have a solution where we utilize the existing infrastructure and not cause additional burdens to our residents who are still awaiting a vaccination date. To ensure the residents of Bucks and Montgomery Counties have adequate access to the vaccine, we respectfully ask you to take these outlined points into consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Chair, Bucks County Commissioner

Representative Kathleen C. Tomlinson
18th District

Senator Robert Tomlinson
6th District

Representative Meghan Schroeder
29th District

Senator Maria Collett
12th District

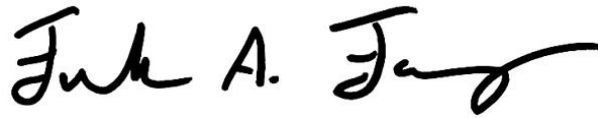
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140th District



Representative Tina Davis
141st District



Representative Wendi Thomas
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