

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As members of the Montana Congressional delegation, we write to you today regarding Montana's limited COVID-19 vaccine supply and support for Governor Gianforte's requests for an immediate increase in vaccine doses to Montana. Despite Montana's highly effective COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration, the state has not been granted appropriate dose allocations. While we are pleased that Montanans are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, our state is experiencing an extraordinary demand for the vaccine that cannot be met with the current federal supply. We respectfully request that your administration work to produce and send more vaccines to Montana immediately.

Montanans and Americans across the country need access to the COVID-19 vaccine. It is deeply troubling to learn from recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data that Montana ranks near the bottom in terms of COVID-19 vaccine allocations to states by the federal government. Our state receives approximately 18,500 first doses per week, while it requires at least 25,000 to 30,000 first doses per week to satisfy current demand. Moreover, Montana needs to have greater transparency and predictability regarding federal COVID-19 vaccine allocation and supply. This will help ensure the most effective planning and distribution of vaccines throughout the state as demand continues to surge. We appreciate your recent commitment to provide states with a three-week forecast of upcoming vaccine shipments, but this is not enough – highly rural states like Montana need even more time to adequately prepare for vaccine distribution.

We look forward to working with you and your administration to ensure that Montanans have increased access to the COVID-19 vaccine and states have access to timely vaccine allocation projections. Montana has a proven track record for effective vaccine administration and distribution, and we are confident in the state's ability to expand its efforts if provided with additional COVID-19 vaccine doses weekly. Thank you for your consideration of this critical request.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress