



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

VIA EMAIL

January 11, 2021

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

Last week, I joined the governors of eight states to ask the Trump Administration to immediately release millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines that it is currently withholding from states. As of the date of this letter, we have not yet received a response.

Nevertheless, we remain ready to accelerate distribution to get doses into arms. Toward that end, I am writing to request permission for the State of Michigan to make a one-time purchase of up to 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine directly from Pfizer to be distributed and administered consistent with CDC guidelines and the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. This direct purchase will fill a two-week lag in supply and ensure that we can continue to ramp up our vaccination efforts across Michigan. It is also consistent with Operation Warp Speed's commitment to deliver a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to Americans as quickly as possible.

I am willing to discuss this request at your earliest convenience, as well as any other options for accelerating COVID-19 vaccine distribution across Michigan and the nation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

cc: Gen. Gustave F. Perna, Chief Operating Officer, Operation Warp Speed; Dr. Moncef Slaoui, Chief Advisor, Operation Warp Speed; Robert R. Redfield, M.D., Director, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Stephen Hahn, M.D., Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration