



VIA EMAIL

January 15, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Azar:

We are writing to express our deep frustrations with the latest developments related to the federal government's vaccine distribution plan. Last week, after nine governors wrote a letter to you and the Trump administration urging you to release the millions of doses you are currently holding back, we were pleased to hear you had agreed to do so on Tuesday this week. Today, we were dismayed to hear that the Trump administration is now denying that a reserve exists, per reporting by the Washington Post.

It has become abundantly clear that not only has the Trump administration botched the rollout of the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, but also that the American people have been misled about these delays. Pfizer just announced that as of yesterday, they have millions of doses of the vaccine on hand and are waiting on addresses from the Trump administration so they can deliver the vaccine to states. If you are unable or unwilling to give us that supply, we urge you to grant permission for us to directly purchase vaccines so we may distribute them to the people of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota as quickly as possible. Without additional supply or authorization to purchase directly, our states may be forced to cancel plans for public vaccination clinics in the coming weeks, which are expected to vaccinate tens of thousands. It's time for the Trump administration to do the right thing and help us end this pandemic.

Finally, it is our understanding that the federal government still has not purchased all of the doses that have been allotted for the United States. We strongly urge the Trump administration to purchase as many doses of the safe and effective vaccine as soon as possible so we can work together to get more shots in arms in the coming weeks. Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and

states across the country remain ready to accelerate vaccine distribution, but we need the Trump administration to take action to purchase as many vaccines as possible.

We are willing to discuss these requests at your earliest convenience, as well as any other options for accelerating COVID-19 vaccine distribution across the nation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Governor Gretchen Whitmer
State of Michigan



Governor Tim Walz
State of Minnesota



Governor Tony Evers
State of Wisconsin

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