



January 21, 2021

Dr. Mark Ghaly
Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
1600 Ninth Street, Room 460
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Ghaly:

Last week, Governor Newsom announced that Californians over 65 would immediately be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. While increasing the size of the universe eligible to be vaccinated was welcome news, our local counties have not received nearly enough doses to start vaccinating those between 65-74. In fact, many of our counties do not have enough doses to vaccinate seniors over 75.

Over the past several months, the Governor has emphasized how the vaccine will be distributed using an equitable process that prioritizes front-line medical workers and those most at risk. And while the decisions about which groups get prioritized in the vaccine distribution have been transparent, the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) distribution formula and process has been a black box.

For example, we still do not know what factors go into CDPH's decision making when determining how many doses are sent to each county. Is it solely based on total population size, or is it priority population size? Does the county's vaccine distribution infrastructure and plan play a factor in determining whether a county will get 100 or 1,000 doses in a week?

Therefore, in order to illuminate the decision-making process that CDPH uses to determine the number of doses a county receives in a week, we respectfully request answers to these questions:

1. How is CDPH determining how many doses each county receives each week? Is there a formula CDPH is using to make these decisions based on available doses, county population size, and capacity to distribute?

2. Hospital systems are getting their vaccine doses directly from the state. Does the state have any say as to where the hospital system sends those doses? If so, does that direction play a role in determining how many doses a county gets directly from CDPH? Has CDPH considered empowering local public health officials to direct how their local hospitals distribute the vaccine? This may allow both counties and the hospitals to better work in concert.
3. Last week, the state opened major flagship vaccine distribution centers at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Petco Park in San Diego and Cal Expo Fairgrounds in Sacramento. Are the doses distributed at these locations being distributed via the county allotment, or are those sites' doses separate from the local county's allocation? If the sites' doses are separate from the county allotment, what is the justification for giving San Diego, Los Angeles and Sacramento counties more than their equitable share of vaccines?

We understand that there is a nationwide vaccine supply strain, and that California is not the only state having to ration the doses we do have. However, a lack of communication and transparency from the administration has resulted in mass confusion by both the general public and our local public health officers.

Seniors are being told by the Governor that they can get vaccinated, but not enough doses exist in the state to start vaccinating seniors. Counties with hundreds of thousands of residents are being told that they will receive 1,000 doses next week without an explanation of how CDPH reached that number. Hospital systems are being given vaccines directly from the state, but county public health officials don't have access to the data showing how many doses the hospitals in their county have received and haven't been empowered to direct hospitals how to distribute those doses.

Californians deserve a transparent state government that works for them. We would appreciate your prompt answers to these questions.

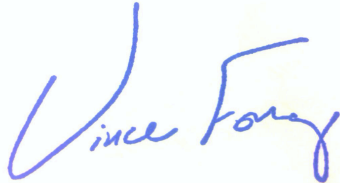
Sincerely,



Jordan Cunningham
Assemblymember, 35th District



Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Assemblymember, 31st District



Vince Fong
Assemblymember, 34th District



Thurston "Smitty" Smith
Assemblymember, 33rd District



Kelly Seyarto
Assemblymember, 67th District



James Gallagher
Assemblymember, 3rd District



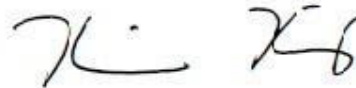
Frank Bigelow
Assemblymember, 5th District



Marie Waldron
Assemblymember, 75th District



Devon Mathis
Assemblymember, 26th District



Kevin Kiley
Assemblymember, 6th District