



800 LaFayette Street  
Ringgold, Georgia 30736

Phone: 706-965-2500  
Fax: 706-935-3112

## CATOOSA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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The Honorable Brian Kemp  
Governor of Georgia  
206 Washington Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

January 20, 2021

Kathleen Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner, Georgia Department of Public Health  
2 Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30303

Dear Governor Kemp and Dr. Toomey:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take the lives of our fellow Georgians and stretch our health care system to its limits, we share the goal of eradicating the coronavirus as quickly as possible. We can achieve this goal in the coming weeks and months in the Northwest Georgia region if we remove the barriers that we now face in our effort to vaccinate our citizens. With your continued leadership and support, I believe our region can be a partner and role model to lead our fight against COVID-19.

Quite simply, we need more vaccine. We appreciate the vaccine that we have already received and administered to our neighbors. But at the current rate of vaccine distribution in Catoosa County and the surrounding area, it would take a year or more for us to provide the level of protection that our community needs. Working with our public and private partners, I am confident our region can safely and efficiently administer 1,000 or more COVID-19 vaccinations a day. We respectfully ask for your help to overcome the barrier of woefully insufficient vaccine supplies in our area.

We have cleared the "personnel barrier" by engaging our county employees and those from Walker and Dade counties. We have enough people to support the Department of Public Health work their phonelines, assist citizens with registration and provide a variety of support and logistics from traffic control, parking and security. Our plans include Catoosa County Public Schools and the Catoosa County Fire Department to provide facilities and medical personnel for community vaccination points. The Colonnade, Catoosa County's civic center, is a key partner that is ready with adequate space, parking, staff and support. Our community's primary health care provider, CHI Memorial Hospital-Georgia, is ready to serve residents in Catoosa, Walker and Dade counties with COVID-19 vaccinations.

I am confident our "all hands-on deck approach" ensures we have the people, facilities and resources needed right now to provide 1,000 or more COVID-19 vaccinations a day. Please help us clear the final barrier with additional COVID-19 vaccination supplies so that we can begin inoculating our most vulnerable populations now and others in the weeks to follow. Together, Georgia along with Catoosa, Walker and Dade Counties can be leaders in the fight to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

All my best,

*Catoosa County - Gateway to Georgia*