



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

January 13, 2021

Governor Tony Evers
P.O. Box 7863
Madison WI 53707

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Dear Governor Evers:

We urgently write you to outline the concerns raised about your administration's plan for Covid-19 vaccination distribution. With coronavirus cases and deaths continuing to rise in the state, we know you would agree that time is of the essence, not to be wasted in providing this vital product to our citizens.

However, as we have conversations with constituents each day, it has become abundantly clear that there is widespread confusion. Healthcare workers, local public health officers, first responders, teachers and other critical frontline workers are unsure if and when they may receive a vaccine let alone distribute the vaccine to the public. In our mutual quest to return to normalcy, this unknown is an unfortunate and inhibiting factor.

For months, both the federal government and private sector moved at a historic pace to deliver a safe and effective vaccine to American citizens. However, now that we are on the cusp of being able to deliver this meaningful solution to every Wisconsinite, it is becoming painfully clear that what your administration is doing is woefully inadequate.

Most concerning is the fact that there appears to be hundreds of thousands of Covid-19 vaccines that have been made available to the state that have yet to be utilized. At the time of this letter, the federal Center for Disease Control reports that of the 429,500 doses that have been made available to Wisconsinites, less than 140,000 have been administered.

As we stand by and watch unelected bureaucrats within your administration debate the philosophical ramifications of providing a vaccine to one group of people before the next, Wisconsin is falling behind the nation and our citizens are suffering.

This discrepancy in vaccine distribution cannot be chalked up to anything other than a lack of both urgency and a comprehensive plan, as Wisconsin is proving to be an outlier among its peers. According to several media reports, Wisconsin is lagging behind nearly every single Midwest state in vaccinating its

healthcare workers and first responders. When reviewed on a per capita basis, Wisconsin again scores near the bottom. If your administration is in fact implementing a distribution plan, it is time to review and reevaluate – this is unacceptable.

As we have seen demonstrated in the past, most recently with your administration's handling of the unemployment claim backlog, problems like this cannot and should not be ignored with the expectation that they will resolve themselves. Throughout all of 2020, your administration stood idly by as peoples' livelihoods were on the line; we fear that in 2021, you are doing the same with peoples' lives.

As we look to our peers and partners within our state like the University of Wisconsin System, there are clearly better models that exist to ensure an efficient and timely delivery of these Covid-19 vaccines. We stand ready to assist where able and we look forward to hearing how your administration is taking swift steps to reverse these staggering trends during the Assembly Committee on Health later this week.

Mr. Governor, Wisconsin needs a comprehensive vaccine distribution plan now. Our constituents cannot wait any longer.

Sincerely,



Rep. Robin J. Vos
Assembly Speaker



Rep. Jim Steineke
Assembly Majority Leader