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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 25, 2021

Acting Secretary Norris Cochran
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Acting Secretary Cochran:

We write to urge that Riverside County Health Center be included in the Health Resources and Service Administration's (HRSA) COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

The State of California has faced challenges in efficiently allocating the doses of COVID-19 vaccine it has received. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of February 22, 2021, only around 80% of vaccine doses delivered to California have been administered to individuals throughout the State. We believe that direct, federal vaccine allocations to underserved areas like Riverside County would enhance our shared goal of maximizing the number of individuals inoculated against COVID-19 as quickly as possible.

Riverside County has received a disproportionately low allotment of COVID-19 vaccinations from the State of California. While the State recently published vaccine allocations for each county on its website, it has not disclosed its allocation formulas which has frustrated Riverside County officials and local health centers in our districts that stand ready to receive and distribute additional doses. For example, our neighboring counties of LA and San Diego each receive about 1,900 doses per 100,000 residents. In comparison, Riverside County receives approximately 1,052 doses per 100,000 residents each week. Meanwhile, Riverside County has administered 95% of the doses it has received compared to only 85% for Los Angeles County and 88% for San Diego County. Riverside has remained steadfast in its mission to vaccinate as many individuals as possible, as quickly as possible.

By directly receiving vaccine doses from the federal government, Riverside County will continue its efforts to increase vaccinations in California to save lives and help restore life to normal. We assure you that Riverside County Health Center stands ready and willing to participate and has demonstrated the efficiency of its vaccine distribution operation.

We appreciate the Department's consideration of Riverside County Health Center for HRSA's COVID-19 Vaccination Program. We urge the department to include Riverside in its participating health centers.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress