



COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis

January, 18, 2021

Dear Partners,

Colorado is among the leading states in distributing the lifesaving Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and getting doses into arms. Of the 300,100 first doses received, we are reporting that 283,250 have already been used to begin protecting healthcare workers, first responders, and Coloradans over the age of 70. We expect that any remaining first doses are likely scheduled for today and tomorrow. Colorado is expecting to receive 42,120 Pfizer first doses and 41,640 Moderna first doses on Tuesday, Jan. 19 and Wednesday, Jan. 20 for a total of 83,760 first doses for the week of Jan. 18-25.

We will also be administering about 95,600 second doses of the Moderna vaccine and 15,210 second doses of the Pfizer vaccine during the week of Jan. 18-25. I want to remind our partners that when precisely measured, each Pfizer vial contains 6 doses and each Moderna vial contains 11 doses. We expect that the additional doses in the designated vials for second doses this week and beyond will be repurposed as first doses for Coloradans ages 70 and up.

I am writing to you today to request that you immediately implement best practices in vaccine supply management to maximize our efficiency in vaccine administration to end the pandemic and save as many lives as possible. Due to the large quantities we received of first doses over the Christmas and New Years holidays and the slower administration that happened at that same time, we now have about 40,000 doses in the state for second doses that are not scheduled to be needed for second doses right now. This has created a situation where we have a choice to either let them sit on shelves until they are needed for second doses, or we can manage our supply in real time and get more first doses in arms now.

Extraordinary times calls for extraordinary efforts so I ask you to begin to actively manage your supply on a week to week basis, and do not let any vaccines sit on shelves. This means you should retain only enough second doses that are required for this week, the week of Jan. 18-25. Additional doses of both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines that had been designated as second doses should now be used as first doses for Coloradans ages 70 and up during the week of Jan. 18-25. The state will backfill additional second doses as needed in future weeks from future supply.

If you are unable to use all second doses designated for Jan. 25 and later during this week of Jan 18-25, we will work with you to reassign these doses to others to ensure that we protect as many Coloradans as possible, and you will receive additional second doses from the state in the week that they are needed. Last week, I spoke directly to General Perna who shared with

me that the federal government has contracts in place such that our national supply will increase by 1 million doses the first week of February with additional increases. With this knowledge, I have more confidence in our supply chain. But should the supply chain at any point falter, we are prepared to direct “first dose” deliveries to be utilized as “second doses” as needed to maintain the CDC recommendation for the booster shot.

The state has received a cumulative total of 85,410 second doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 114,720 second doses of the Moderna vaccine for a total of 200,130 second doses. Thus far, 49,595 second doses have been administered (all Pfizer) and for this coming week, we will be administering (assuming everyone shows up) about 95,600 second doses of Moderna and 15,210 second doses of Pfizer for a total of 110,810 second doses for the week of Jan 18-25. Therefore through the guidance in this letter, we are hereby immediately freeing up 20,605 doses of Pfizer (currently designated as second doses for Jan. 25 and beyond) and 19,120 doses of Moderna vaccines (currently designated as second doses for Jan. 25 and beyond) for use THIS week, Jan 18-25, in Coloradans ages 70 and up for a total new weekly allocation for this week of 124,485 first doses (83,760 + 39,725).

Our policy in Colorado remains to administer two doses of Moderna and Pfizer to every recipient on the CDC recommended schedule of 21 days post initial shot for Pfizer and 28 days post initial shot for Moderna. It’s important to reiterate should the supply chain at any point falter, we are prepared to direct “first dose” deliveries to be utilized as “second doses” as needed to maintain the CDC recommendation for the booster shot. I also want to be crystal clear that this change is purely guidance on vaccine supply management to utilize best practices and expedite deploying the vaccine, it is not a policy change for if and when the second doses are administered to patients. While implementing this best practice is important to the tens of thousands of seniors who may now be able to schedule an appointment sooner due to this change, we do not anticipate this changing our current goal of vaccinating 70% of 70 year olds and up by the end of February. I appreciate your ongoing partnership to save lives, and I know you share my sentiment that this change will save lives by protecting more people earlier.

If your organization is not involved with vaccinating members of the general public ages 70 and up, we will work with you to reassign your second dosage today to other partners that will utilize it this week to begin the protection clock for as many Coloradans ages 70 and up as possible. The state has a record of your scheduled need for second doses and will backfill your requirements as needed in the week they are needed.

Yours truly,



Governor Jared Polis