



# County of Fresno

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January 26, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
State Capitol Building, 1st Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Urgent Request for Increase to Fresno County's Allotment of Vaccines**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The County of Fresno has been working diligently through our Public Health Department and community partners to distribute and administer our supply of COVID-19 vaccines. These efforts include working closely with our local hospitals and health care partners. As the County strives to ramp up vaccination efforts, we need assurances that COVID-19 vaccine allocations will be predictable, continue to increase, and provided more than one week in advance. The ability to plan and match our allocation while simultaneously growing our capacity for distribution will not only allow for better planning for vaccinations but help preserve the public trust in this critical effort. However, we are now required to scale back vaccination centers at a critical stage when we are also trying to plan for County residents to receive their second dose.

*Local Public Health departments are typically the only entity that may provide vaccinations to all people who qualify under the state's vaccine plan regardless of income, insurance status, or immigration status. Our Public Health department has already identified and mounted outreach efforts to underserved populations, entered into employer partnerships to inoculate farmworkers, and remains the only publicly funded and accountable entity with such a critical role for equitable access to these lifesaving vaccines.*

We **urgently** request the following:

#### **1. Urgent Request for Additional Doses of Vaccine**

Our current inflow of COVID-19 vaccines is approximately 14,000 per week. For the County of Fresno to complete Phase 1A, and begin vaccinating Phase 1B, which includes

farm workers and other essential workers we need increased allocations immediately. The County has the distribution system established and it is being increased. The County's Public Health Department, working closely with hospital and health care partners, can administer **34,000** COVID-19 vaccinations per week. In 30 days, the County will have capacity to administer **47,000** doses per week.

Therefore, for the County to meet demand and match our distribution capacity, the following is ***urgently*** requested:

- ✓ As soon as possible, the County of Fresno is requesting an allocation of no less than **10,000** Pfizer doses and **20,000** Moderna doses per week.
- ✓ Beginning the week of March 1, the County of Fresno is requesting allocation of **20,000** Pfizer doses and **40,000** Moderna doses per week.

## 2. Accountability & Reporting for All Partners



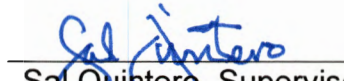
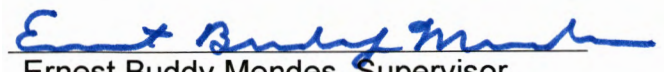
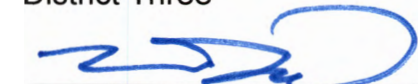
The State's approach to vaccine distribution and administration includes partnership with the Federal Pharmacy Partnership and other Multi-County Entities.

- The Federal Pharmacy Partnership includes doses sent by the federal government to CVS and Walgreens to vaccinate long-term care and other congregate living facilities. Until this week, there was no coordination or reporting of these efforts to local Public Health departments, which requires that we step in and use allocated doses for this population to prevent more illness and death. Thank you for efforts to ensure that Counties receive this important data which we began receiving today. We urge your continued support of maintaining accountability, timely reporting, and focus on completing vaccinations of this vulnerable population. This should be our number one priority.
- Multi-County Entities (MCEs), e.g., Kaiser, State Prisons have received a portion of the State's allocation as they are in multiple jurisdictions throughout the State including Fresno County. These MCEs are responsible for distributing vaccine to all of their hospitals or facilities in every jurisdiction in which they operate. However, they are only tasked with vaccinating their members and do not offer vaccine to the general public, the uninsured, or underserved nonmember populations unless hospitalized. To ensure accountability and timely reporting, you must hold Multi-County Entities accountable to timely reporting to local Public Health departments.

We urge **immediate action** on this **urgent** request for additional vaccines and stand ready to partner as we collectively continue to respond to COVID-19 and prepare for an uncertain future.

Sincerely,

**Fresno County Board of Supervisors**

  
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Steve Brandau, Chairman  
District Two  
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Nathan Magsig, Supervisor  
District Five

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Legislative Delegation  
Paul Yoder, State Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties