

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 10, 2020

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Director Walensky:

First, we wish to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As the Representatives who collectively represent nearly 1.6 million Philadelphians in Congress, we look forward to working with you to support the continued federal response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We write today to bring your attention to an issue that is affecting Philadelphia and may be affecting several other large cities across our country. Throughout the initial phases of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, the supply of available doses has not met the demand, particularly for high-risk and other priority populations. Compounding this problem is the fact that in Philadelphia and other large cities that host large, daytime non-resident populations, it has been brought to our attention that a significant number of vaccines allocated to our city are being administered to non-residents.

We all share the goal of vaccinating as many Americans as we can as quickly as possible, but we are concerned that the current population-based formula used to determine vaccine allocations is creating a vaccine deficit that disproportionately impacts cities like Philadelphia.

It has been suggested to us that the current allocation formula does not adequately account for the rate at which some large cities vaccinate non-resident workers. Our situation in Philadelphia, where thousands of non-resident workers are employed in a variety of industries, is indicative of the inadequacies of the current formula. During the initial phases of the vaccine rollout, in addition to our residential population, many non-residents who work in Philadelphia were also vaccinated. In fact, it has been communicated to our offices by the City of Philadelphia that their Department of Public Health estimates as many as *half* of those vaccinated thus far have been non-residents.

It is our understanding that Philadelphia's vaccine allocation has been based on our full-time residential population of just under 1.6 million, rather than our daytime population, which is notably larger by including non-resident workers and would be far more reflective of our overall vaccine needs. We want to have enough vaccines for all our residents and all our workers.

As Philadelphia and other large cities move toward future vaccine rollout phases that include more essential workers, many of whom will inevitably live outside the cities in which they are

employed, we ask that the CDC consider updating the vaccine allocation formula to adequately account for larger cities that host large, daytime non-resident worker populations. A formula that more accurately captures the circumstances of large cities like Philadelphia would ensure that as we vaccinate frontline workers and other essential personnel, we are not jeopardizing vaccine supplies for our full-time residents.

We thank you for considering this request, and we look forward to discussing our concerns with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

Cc: Jeffrey Zients, Counselor to the President