

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Kamala Devi Harris
Vice President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor
Acting Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, SW (Mail Stop 0150)
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. Jeffrey Zients
Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response
Counselor to the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden, Vice President Harris, Acting Secretary Gaynor, and Mr. Zients:

As the nation faces numerous daunting challenges, we stand ready to work with you to restore the health and prosperity of the American people. Among your top priorities is the COVID-19 pandemic that has ravaged our nation and began with an epicenter in New York State. As New York faces an alarming second wave of infections, it is approaching a parallel crisis as our state elected leaders and health professionals' express concerns that we may exhaust our supply of vaccine doses. We, therefore, ask you and your administration to use every means available to increase vaccine production and assistance strengthening New York's vaccination infrastructure and capacity to meet our state's needs.

As the epicenter of the pandemic shortly after the virus reached the United States, New York has pulled together its resources to deal with this public health crisis working with partners throughout government. And with the incredible development of COVID-19 vaccines from both Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech, we are grateful to your administration acting on your first day through Executive Action and the Defense Production Act to speed up manufacturing of these vaccines, as well as proposing a National Strategy to streamline distribution supply chains to reach states, cities, and localities.^{1 2}

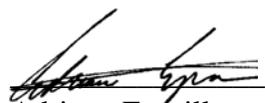
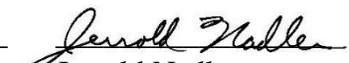
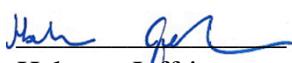
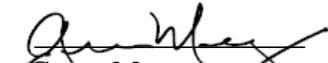
¹ Executive Order on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain. (2021, January 21). Retrieved January 22, 2021, from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-a-sustainable-public-health-supply-chain/>

² Biden, Joseph R. National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness. Jan. 2021, www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf.

While we expect New York’s next allocation to come soon, we are reaching a critical juncture. In partnership with the Federal Government and U.S. Centers for Disease Control, a total of 1,559,294 New Yorkers has received their first dose shots representing 95.6 percent of total doses administered.³ ⁴ With these first doses having been administered, we want to make sure that shipments continue or we face the risk of having to halt inoculations due to lack of supply and the myriad additional logistical complications that will ensue. Among those complications are the need to build new public health infrastructure, augmenting existing capacity to train and deploy clinical and non-clinical staff, acquiring and moving ultracold storage capacity, purchasing and distributing PPE, and effectively communicating with New Yorkers in real-time. As an example, vaccination sites that have been stood up and ready to accept appointments have had to cancel planned inoculations leaving many New Yorkers – including our constituents – understandably frustrated. This process is a continuum, but with the successes of Operation Warp Speed delivering two vaccine candidates and foundation set for states to receive, distribute, and vaccinate, we are committed to working with you to make this process as successful as possible. We know that your administration is committed to delivering the funding needed to meet this public health challenge because your own National Strategy acknowledges this fact and as your executive order supporting Governors’ use of the National Guard responding to COVID-19.⁵

We ask that your COVID-19 Response team take quick action to move all available vaccine to states that are anticipating an imminent shortfall to continue vaccinating residents and further increase the manufacturing and distribution to meet our vaccinations goals. We are committed to working with you and your administration to make this a reality for New York. Thank you for your commitment to marshaling the full resources of the federal government to address this pandemic.

Sincerely,

			
Adriano Espaillat	Jerrold Nadler	Hakeem Jeffries	Grace Meng
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress
New York 13 th District	New York 10 th District	New York 8 th District	New York 6 th District

³ CDC COVID Data Tracker. (n.d.). Retrieved January 29, 2021, from <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>. Data posted January 28, 2021 at 11:54 P.M. ET

- CDC Total Doses Administered: 1,630,504
- People getting 1 or more doses: 1,320,572
- People Receiving 2 doses: 238,722
- Total Number of People receiving first dose: 1,320,572 + 238,722 = 1,559,294.
- Total Percentage of People who have received first dose: $1,559,294/1,630,504 = 0.95632 \times 100 = 95.63\%$

⁴ Id. “People receiving 1 or more doses represent the total number of people who have received at least one dose of vaccine. People receiving 2 doses represent the number of people who have also received a second dose of vaccine.”

⁵ “Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors’ Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States.” The White House, The United States Government, 21 Jan. 2021, www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/extend-federal-support-to-governors-use-of-national-guard-to-respond-to-covid-19-and-to-increase-reimbursement-and-other-assistance-provided-to-states/.



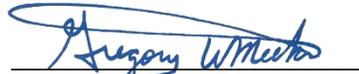
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress
New York 16th District



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress
New York 3rd District



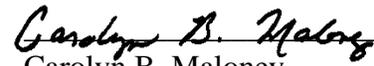
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress
New York 15th District



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress
New York 5th District



Yvette D. Clarke
M.C.
Member of Congress
New York 9th District



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress
New York 12th District



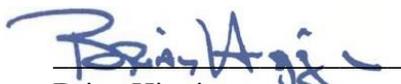
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress
New York 18th District



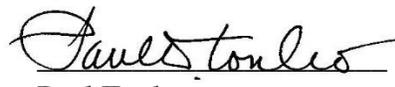
Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress
New York 17th District



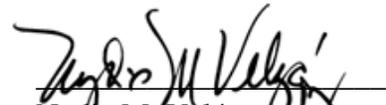
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress
New York 4th District



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress
New York 26th District



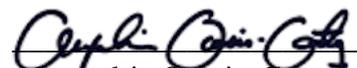
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress
New York 20th District



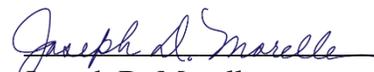
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress
New York 7th District



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress
New York 19th District



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress
New York 14th District



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress
New York 25th District