

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 8, 2021

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

Dear Director Walensky,

We appreciate the Biden administration's whole-of-government approach to deliver a safe and effective vaccine to the American people. This builds on the good work of the Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed.

There are recent reports that Iowa is not receiving its fair share of vaccines.<sup>1</sup> We request the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publicly release its weekly formula for allocating vaccines to states, territories, tribes, other public health jurisdictions, and federal entities. No matter where you live, Iowans and all Americans should have fair access to a vaccine.

Iowans must have confidence we are receiving our fair share of vaccines. We appreciate the CDC routinely releasing state-by-state vaccine data for allocation, doses delivered, and administration.<sup>2,3,4</sup> However, it is difficult to determine based on this data whether Iowa is receiving its fair share. This publicly reported data can also lag. In our request for the CDC to publicly release its weekly formula to allocate vaccines, we ask the CDC to publish this information in a simple format for every week you have allocated vaccines and each state's weekly pro-rata share of vaccine allocations.

If the CDC publishes the week-to-week formula and key details, this transparency will ensure Iowans and all Americans can confirm the federal government is fairly allocating vaccines and build confidence in the vaccine distribution process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions, please reach out to members of our staff, Nic Pottebaum (202-224-5988) and Anna Breen (202-224-3254).

Sincerely,

  
Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

  
Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Kim Reynolds, Governor of Iowa  
The Honorable Mr. Jeffrey Zients, White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator  
Norris Cochran, Acting Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
General Gustavo F. Perna, Chief Operating Officer, Operation Warp Speed

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<sup>1</sup> Nick Coltrain and Tony Leys, “Iowa is ranked 47th in COVID-19 vaccine supply. Gov. Kim Reynolds wants to know why,” *Des Moines Register*, February 4, 2021, <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2021/02/04/iowa-gov-kim-reynolds-covid-news-conference-thursday-feb-4-vaccine-schools-police-laws-legislation/4377240001/>.

<sup>2</sup> “COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Allocations by Jurisdiction – Pfizer,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last modified February 2, 2021, <https://data.cdc.gov/Vaccinations/COVID-19-Vaccine-Distribution-Allocations-by-Juris/saz5-9hgg>.

<sup>3</sup> “COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Allocations by Jurisdiction – Moderna,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last modified February 2, 2021, <https://data.cdc.gov/Vaccinations/COVID-19-Vaccine-Distribution-Allocations-by-Juris/b7pe-5nws>.

<sup>4</sup> “Data Table for COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last modified February 7, 2021, <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>.