

**LORI A. MIZGORSKI, MEMBER
30th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

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Human Services
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Local Government
Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Cities, Counties
Second Class – Chair

February 24, 2021

Alison Beam
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Health and Welfare Building
8th Floor West
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Beam,

I recognize the difficult duties you have undertaken by accepting the call to serve as Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and I thank you for your commitment to serve the people of Pennsylvania by directing the COVID-19 vaccine effort.

Understanding that the supply of COVID-19 coming into the Commonwealth is distributed directly by the Federal Government, your allocation guidance to the Federal government is crucial to effective and equitable distribution of the vaccine. Throughout my conversations and correspondence with constituents, medical professionals and the Department of Health, I have been repeatedly reminded of the priority which is to be given to Pennsylvanians who are at the greatest risk including residents 65 or older.

Representing a district where almost a quarter of residents are 65 or older, one would think that the north hills area of Allegheny County would be receiving vaccine allotments in an equal and consistent manner, in comparison to other municipalities in the county. This is not so. The two grocery store pharmacies which are Federally approved locations have not received more than 100 doses and with no regularity. PA DOH vaccine distribution data indicates that some areas have multiple sites within the same locality where vaccinations are available.

The north hills area is a vaccine desert and seniors in my district are suffering the consequences. To compound the issue, independent medical providers in my legislative district have set up efficient operations to administer vaccines to unaffiliated medical providers and the elderly, but were recently notified that they may not receive requested vaccine doses in the future.

As the Covid-19 vaccine provider map clearly demonstrates, my district is under-represented in the overall vaccine distribution plan. I ask that you increase the allocation of vaccine to my district and work with the independent medical practices and other north hills DOH approved dispensaries to improve vaccine access for our elderly and other vulnerable community residents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Mizgorski".

Lori A. Mizgorski
State Representative
30th Legislative District