



March 4, 2021

The Honorable JB Pritzker  
Office of the Illinois Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker,

As you know from our previous correspondence, we want to help your administration improve the vaccine rollout in Illinois.

As legislators in our communities, we have been actively engaged with our local public health departments from the onset of the pandemic and their concerns have been one of the main factors in our repeated requests for more transparency from your administration over the last few months. We have even submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for vaccine data information so we may better understand how you are making decisions in the rollout process.

In our call with you on February 28, 2021, you shared that the problems with the rollout were not at the state level, but at the federal and local levels. Specifically, we were told that the local health departments were sitting on vaccines that could and should be put into people's arms. In response to our concerns about a more equitable appointment system, you said the state would be setting up a statewide call-in number. You advised us that we could best help the vaccination effort by working with our local public health departments.

To help facilitate more communication, we invited you to participate in a statewide, hour-long zoom meeting with our local public health officials to hear, directly from them, their suggestions and concerns. Your office declined the invitation and encouraged the local health departments to go through your regular channels.

Upon the requests of our communities, we went ahead with the meeting and invited local health departments from across the state to share their experiences with several members of our caucus. A total of 42 local officials and representatives joined live and several others submitted written comments on February 24, 2021.

We received pages of suggestions, feedback, and concerns. They shared what was working well, what needed to be improved and how they were doing their best, every day, despite the limited tools provided by the state.

The main two themes we came away with were: their unwavering dedication to saving as many lives possible, and their grave concern that, because of a lack of communication and resources, their communities were going to lose faith in their local health departments – despite their incredible expertise, preparedness and capabilities.

As we're sure you can concur, we believe Illinois is tremendously lucky to have so many qualified, outstanding local public health officials serving our communities. The work they are doing should be commended by us, and appreciated by those they serve as they continue to work tirelessly and professionally under an impossible situation. It would be an incredible disservice to all Illinoisans to not do everything in our power to ensure the public retains their confidence in the public health employees on the frontlines who have been preparing and perfecting their plans for mass vaccination long before the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have compiled the most consistent issues and suggested solutions brought forward by these dozens of Illinois experts in the following report. Additionally, for your reference, we have included our previous correspondence related to the vaccination rollout.

We welcome the chance for another phone conversation or meeting to discuss these findings in the hopes we can collaborate on improving this process for the people who matter most to us all.

Thank you for your time and we hope to hear from you soon to discuss these very important issues.

Sincerely,



Senator Dan McConchie  
Senate Republican Leader



Senator Sue Rezin  
Senate Republican Deputy Leader