

ADRIENNE A. JONES
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

10th Legislative District
Baltimore County



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The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

January 28, 2021

Acting Secretary of Health Dennis Schrader
Maryland Department of Health
201 West Preston St.
Baltimore, MD 21201-2399

Acting Secretary Schrader,

On February 2nd, the Health and Government Operations Committee will hold a briefing on vaccine delivery and distribution in Maryland. While you have not confirmed your presence at the briefing, we assume you will provide us with the same access you are providing to our Senate colleagues. With each passing day, Marylanders are becoming more disillusioned with the state's vaccination efforts and more confused as the administration layers new idea on top of new idea to fix the problem.

We would like the following questions answered:

1. Why are vaccine doses not being provided to counties in an equitable fashion, based on populations?
2. You have asked hospitals to begin to vaccinate the public, how are they accounted for in the overall plan?
3. What is the plan to make sure communities of color are not left behind?
4. Why are we not prioritizing 1B over 1C as we have limited doses?
5. Data suggests that the chain pharmacies are some of slowest providers of the vaccines, why?
6. The latest remarks from the Governor suggest pharmacies will play a major role in vaccinating rural communities despite vaccination success by local health departments in rural counties, why?
7. What are the fees and costs to the state, insurers and patients when a vaccine dose is delivered by a pharmacy?
8. Why is there not one statewide sign up for the vaccine?
9. What is your plan to make sure counties like Prince George's do not continue to see out of county residents in line for vaccinations?
10. The mass vaccination sites that Governor Hogan has promised to open, will they prioritize the 1B category and the immunocompromised?

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11. With the proliferation of providers, how are we collecting data on who has been vaccinated, and are all providers collecting demographic data?
12. How are we reaching out to those without internet, reliable transportation, mobility issues, etc.?
13. What is the unified statewide message on vaccinations right now?
14. Will there be a Maryland state Covid-19 vaccination hotline, and is there currently a dedicated team to answer emails and calls about vaccine distribution?

Maryland is home to the world's best healthcare delivery system, a thriving biotech industry, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institute of Health (NIH). It is troubling and embarrassing that we are so far behind our neighboring states in the delivery of vaccines. Our citizens are demanding answers and a unified and cohesive approach. To date, we have not seen that.

We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks to sort this out.

Regards,

Speaker Adrienne A. Jones

Chair Shane Pendergrass

Vice-Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk