



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

January 13, 2021

Dear County Managers:

Thank you for your commitment to slowing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the health of North Carolinians. Your leadership has been essential throughout our COVID-19 response and I am grateful for our partnership.

I know you and your public health partners have been working around the clock on vaccination efforts over the past several weeks. Please know that if you need support – technical assistance, additional staff, vaccinators – help is available. You can request support via your county emergency management system or reach out to Hattie Gawande on my team (Hattie.gawande@dhhs.nc.gov) directly for guidance. Please let us know how we can help you so we can get shots into arms as quickly as possible. Our goal is to get all vaccine in the state expended by next Wednesday, when we get the next shipment of vaccine. If your teams will not be able to administer all vaccine allocated to you by next Wednesday, we can transfer some of the vaccines to other providers who are already out of vaccine.

Lastly, I want to make sure you are aware of guidance we recently shared with local health departments. Per CDC requirements, vaccine providers should administer vaccine to all who meet current eligibility criteria regardless of county of residence. The vaccines are paid for by the federal government and jurisdictions cannot restrict who they will vaccinate. You can target your marketing efforts to those in your county – but cannot limit appointments to those only in your county. We appreciate all of your hard work to get all North Carolinians vaccinated as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandy K. Cohen".

Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary