Sample Letter

As the governor of the [insert state] chapter of the American College of Physicians, representing [add chapter membership] internal medicine physician specialists and medical students in our state, I am writing on behalf of our chapter to urge you to increase efforts to support responsible vaccine policies in the interest of public health and safety and to ensure the equitable distribution of COVID vaccines to all those eligible, including frontline physicians and health care workers, those with compromised immune systems, pregnant women, and incarcerated individuals regardless of immigration status. Our chapter is part of the American College of Physicians, which nationally represents 161,000 internal medicine physician specialists and medical student members. Our members are primary care physicians that are on the frontline of the fight against COVID-19 and provide care to millions of American with ongoing health care needs unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our chapter supports that the government may appropriately require employers (including health care and long-term care employers), schools, public agencies, and organizations to require their employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We believe that vaccines are a safe and effective way to help prevent serious illness, hospitalizations and death; thereby, helping to bring infection rates under control and keeping them under control. We also advocate that all health care workers should be immunized, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for the safety of patients and the public unless there is a clear medical contraindication or other exemption under applicable law.

Vaccination is the primary way to put the pandemic behind us and avoid the return of stringent public health measures. That is why it is critically important for the state to ensure equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines to all those eligible, including pregnant women along with women who were recently pregnant, are planning to become pregnant, or are lactating, as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All individuals held in federal custody, regardless of immigration status, should also have access to timely, evidence-based comprehensive health care -- including vaccinations protecting against COVID-19.

We also urge you to facilitate coordination and collaboration between primary care physicians and community-based vaccinators such as pharmacists and retail health clinics. All vaccinators should coordinate, communicate, and collaborate with the patient’s primary care team to ensure patient safety and continuity of care. Community-based vaccinators should provide the patient with appropriate immunization paperwork and other documentation, refer the patient to their primary care team for any necessary counseling and follow-up care, particularly for patients with complex chronic care management needs and have a structured referral system to primary care settings and encouragepatients they vaccinate to establish a longitudinal relationship with a primary care team if the patient does not have such an existing relationship.

In conclusion, we request that you do all that you can to facilitate and promote the immediate and broad vaccination of all those eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, including frontline health care workers, those with compromised immune systems, pregnant women, and incarcerated individuals regardless of immigration status. Failure to do so will only prolong this pandemic and further compromise the safety of patients who are seeking care for COVID-19 and non-COVID health issues.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of these requests. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the state’s vaccination strategies are successful.

Sincerely,

[Insert name]

Governor

[Insert state] Chapter of the American College of Physicians