

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Robert R. Redfield, MD  
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

January 8, 2021

Dear Director Redfield,

We write to you following disturbing reports that many doses of COVID-19 vaccines are nearing expiration with providers unable to find enough individuals eligible for vaccination under the priority tier systems in place in their local jurisdictions. It is incumbent upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to immediately provide guidance to vaccine providers on how to avoid wasting precious doses, including by expanding eligibility for vaccination when available doses are about to expire.

Across the United States, providers at pharmacies, grocery stores, and other vaccination sites have been forced to make decisions on whether to let doses of COVID-19 vaccines expire or to administer them to any willing individuals, even if they are not currently eligible to receive them. While serving an important function to ensure our most vulnerable populations receive the vaccine first, the priority tier system developed by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and widely adopted by states and localities, has forced some providers to choose between adhering to requirements from public health authorities and inoculating additional individuals against a deadly disease.

ACIP's existing recommendations for a phased allocation of the vaccines, which take important factors such as frontline status, age, comorbidities, and equity into consideration, do not give sufficient guidance to providers who find themselves in the scenario described above where vaccine is on the verge of expiration. Strategic allocation must not stand in the way of administering shots to as many individuals as possible given the magnitude of the crisis and the dire projections for cases and deaths in the coming months. Each dose that ends up in the trash is potentially another life lost.

Thus, the Members of Congress below respectfully request that the CDC provide updated guidance to ensure that no COVID-19 vaccine goes to waste. If guidance is not promptly published and distributed to states for nationwide implementation, we will be forced to advocate for legislative and regulatory measures in order to prevent scarce COVID-19 shots from going to waste. We respectfully and urgently request that you make a public announcement detailing your plans to update CDC's guidance to prevent vaccine waste as soon as possible and no later than January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Marie Newman  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

John Rose  
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress