



Healthcare Distribution Alliance

PATIENTS MOVE US.

December 18, 2020

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

Dear Director Redfield:

On behalf of the [Healthcare Distribution Alliance \(HDA\)](#) and our primary pharmaceutical wholesale distribution members, I am writing to express the industry's commitment to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) pandemic response and vaccine distribution efforts. As the logistics experts within the healthcare supply chain, our members remain committed to working with CDC through all phases of planning and execution related to COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutic distribution.

As all HDA members have experienced over the course of the pandemic, the healthcare resources the nation needs are constantly evolving. The intense need for approved therapies and vaccines requires extensive coordination across the entire pharmaceutical supply chain — both now, with the focus on healthcare providers and vulnerable populations, and as production scales up, to communities of all sizes across the nation.

The logistical and technological challenges involved with COVID-19 vaccine distribution are extensive. The commercial distribution industry is in the unique position of having the know-how, previous experience and ability to quickly mobilize in this large-scale public health effort. Operation Warp Speed Chief Operating Officer, General Gus Perna, spoke to this capability during the White House Vaccine Summit on December 8: "Private industry knows how to do this. They do it every day. They do it quietly. They do it professionally. They do it with expertise... vaccines and medicines flowing throughout our country. Every single day."

Several of HDA's distributor members — comprising large companies with national footprints to smaller, regional organizations that often service underserved and rural communities — are already involved in some aspect of the response and distribution efforts, working with the federal government or directly with the states.

However, as more vaccines and therapeutics are approved, more distribution capacity will inevitably be required to ensure that these products are reaching the communities that desperately need them. At this time, we feel it is important for CDC to engage the broader distribution sector in the preparation and contingency planning process so that no time is lost if, as anticipated, a potential surge in demand calls for further logistics expertise to help ensure Americans across the country have access to these critical medicines. Given the make-up of HDA's distribution membership, we stand ready to help facilitate that engagement in any appropriate manner.

We have great respect for the extensive work CDC has done thus far and are committed to supporting future efforts to eradicate the coronavirus and help our nation heal from this crippling pandemic. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns you may have. We will gladly provide contact information for all HDA members who are ready and able to assist. You can reach me directly by email at cdavis@hda.org or by phone at (703) 885-0219.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chester W. Davis, Jr." in a cursive script.

Chester "Chip" Davis, Jr.
President and CEO
Healthcare Distribution Alliance