



Healthcare Distribution Alliance

PATIENTS MOVE US.

June 10, 2020

Dr. Robert Kadlec  
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Kadlec:

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), I offer this letter to reinforce that the nation's primary pharmaceutical distributors are committed to assisting the country and our frontline healthcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly as you consider the logistics around COVID-19 treatment and vaccine distribution.

Over 92 percent of medications shipped in the United States arrive at their dispensing location because of an HDA member company. The organization's 35 distributor members are working around-the-clock to increase medical capacity and enhance our national supply of critical medications and supplies required to fight this pandemic, protect our frontline providers and enable treatment for patients. Our members have historically been partners to the federal government in the warehousing and delivery of medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile and have been supporting national, state, local entities and healthcare providers during this crisis.

#### Expertise in Emergency Response

As the pharmaceutical supply chain responds to COVID-19, healthcare distributors are proactively leveraging prior emergency response experience and expertise to support the entire supply chain and help wherever we can. HDA members are in the business of finding the safest and most efficient ways to get products to patients where needed, working as the vital link between the nation's 1,300 pharmaceutical manufacturers and more than 180,000 healthcare delivery settings. This is our strong suit, and we continue to serve as a strategic partner and resource to the federal and state agencies running the response efforts.

We encourage the federal government to utilize the capabilities of the nation's existing pharmaceutical distribution infrastructure to expedite and streamline efforts in the continuing COVID-19 response, particularly as treatments and vaccines emerge. Distributors already have warehousing facilities across the United States, established relationships with healthcare providers, sophisticated ordering systems that their customers have and use daily, and

efficient shipping networks to swiftly reach those customers. We believe that any attempts to build out separate distribution channels would be redundant and costly.

### COVID-19 Treatment and Vaccine Distribution

As new COVID-19 treatments and vaccines become available, HDA recommends that the federal government partner with and provide detailed guidance to pharmaceutical distributors on how these essential medicines should be distributed. In addition, it is critical that federal and state authorities work together to designate priority populations, localities and eligible facilities, and communicate that information to the supply chain to ensure these products are distributed as safely and expeditiously as possible.

HDA distributor members stand ready to maximize the efficiencies of the existing private-sector distribution system to support response efforts to deliver treatments and vaccines to where they are most needed. This is particularly important when a new treatment or vaccine is first entering the marketplace. Distributors have significant experience in delivering new medicines expeditiously and can be integral to ensuring:

- Inventories are pre-positioned in the supply chain to help facilitate ready access to providers;
- Drugs are available to providers as swiftly as possible;
- Treatments and vaccines can reach facilities designated under each state's emergency preparedness plan; and,
- Distribution plans comply with existing federal and state regulations.

### Conclusion

Every day, HDA distributor members are committed to doing what is necessary to ensure hospitals, healthcare providers, pharmacies and other sites of care have access to the medicines and healthcare products that patients need. This public health crisis is no different. Distributors are rising to the challenge, supporting our supply chain partners, and doing everything possible to ensure continuous operations in the healthcare system during this unprecedented time.

We look forward to continuing our work with the administration, Congress and federal and state authorities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please let us know if we can answer any questions or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Chester "Chip" Davis, Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA)

Cc: Brian Harrison, Chief of Staff  
Paul Mango, Deputy Chief of Staff