



December 15, 2020

Dr. Robert Redfield  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
1600 Clifton Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

**Re: National Survey Expresses Serious Concern with Pharmacy Chains Administering Covid-19 Vaccines in Long-term Care**

Dr. Redfield,

As you know, our organizations represent America's independent and community long-term care pharmacists, which service the more than 15,000 skilled nursing facilities and thousands of assisted living facilities across the country.

Upon the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in long-term care facilities (LTCF) throughout the country, our local pharmacy owners, LTCF staff, local health departments, and other stakeholders have reported issues that may impact the effective and efficient distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations in the LTC environment. The National Community Pharmacists Association and the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists surveyed LTC pharmacy owners and LTC pharmacists to quantify feedback and would like to share these results with the CDC as part of our ongoing dialog. The survey ran during the week of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and provided a quick turnaround of 212 pharmacies and pharmacists respondents throughout the United States.

In summary, 81% of survey respondents are not confident that the two national pharmacies charged with administering vaccines to older adults residing in LTCFs will be able to fulfill their federal contracts and administer the COVID-19 vaccine in LTCFs. Meanwhile 45% of respondents have been approached by facilities, to assist them in working with the national chains to help manage vaccination clinic days. Other areas of concern focus on the two national pharmacies having inadequate staffing and chain pharmacy staff having insufficient experience with LTC patients. We have attached the full survey results for the agency's review.

Our organizations continue to encourage CDC to work with us and the states and facilities who choose to involve an independent pharmacy to help administer vaccines in Phase 1a of the vaccination plan. These pharmacies are covered under an existing federal agreement to participate in the vaccination process and have the skills and expertise necessary to ensure successful inoculation of older adults living in LTC environments. We appreciate our ongoing dialog with the CDC and the willingness to involve independent pharmacies in federal partnerships related to administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. As you know, our members have a very large footprint in local communities, especially those in medically underserved areas. Our members stand ready to serve when and where needed.

Sincerely,

B. Douglas Hoey, RPh, MBA  
CEO  
National Community Pharmacists Association

Chad Worz, PharmD, BCGP  
Chief Executive  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists