

DOUG LAMBORN
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER,
READINESS
TACTICAL AIR & LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

2371 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-4422
FAX 202-226-2638

DISTRICT OFFICE:

1125 KELLY JOHNSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 330
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80920
719-520-0055
FAX 719-520-0840

Website: Lamborn.house.gov

Facebook: [@CongressmanDougLamborn](https://www.facebook.com/CongressmanDougLamborn)

Twitter: [@RepDLamborn](https://twitter.com/RepDLamborn)

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor, State of Colorado
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis:

I write today seeking clarification on the COVID-19 vaccine disparity that is affecting El Paso County. As you know, the state's vaccination rollout standards have been changed multiple times. First, the State of Colorado was using an "algorithm" to determine how vaccines would be distributed. I am grateful that Colorado has moved away from this potentially flawed system and is now solely focusing on population.

However, it has come to my attention that El Paso County is still not receiving an adequate allotment of vaccines for COVID-19. As you may be aware, state health department data recently showed that so far, El Paso County has received about 156,000 doses of the vaccine while Denver County has received 230,670 doses. If the state is correctly allocating vaccines by population, then El Paso should have received an additional 25,259 doses.

I understand that recently, El Paso County is receiving an increased portion of doses. However, I am concerned that this error happened in the first place. I ask that you investigate and ensure that all areas of Colorado are receiving appropriate vaccine allotments proportional to their population. El Paso County is unique due to its size and large portion of veterans and other populations that are vulnerable to the virus. These individuals deserve to receive the vaccine at the same rate as those in Denver and other counties.

While I understand that recent storms have led to delays, it is unacceptable that the state's second-largest populace is still not receiving its appropriate share of the vaccine. I am specifically interested in what current steps are being taken to help reduce the 26,000 dose shortfall currently facing El Paso County. In addition, we must have transparency on how the original algorithm was used and the current number of vaccine allotments per county.

We must continue to vaccinate the population as rapidly and safely as possible. El Paso County and the El Paso Department of Health are able to handle higher quantities of the vaccine than they are currently receiving. El Paso County is currently utilizing hospitals, pharmacies, and even large facilities such as World Arena. We must ensure that the second most populous metro area in Colorado is not being ignored. I request that you examine this issue, and I look forward to

clarification on the algorithm that was originally being used. The vaccine disparity in El Paso must immediately be addressed. Moving forwards, El Paso County must receive appropriate vaccine allotments, and you must diligently work to address this shortfall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Lamborn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

CC: Jill Hunsaker Ryan, Director Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Brigadier General Scott Sherman, Colorado National Guard