

KEN BUCK

4TH DISTRICT OF COLORADO

2455 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4676
FAX: (202) 225-5870

DISTRICT OFFICE:

900 CASTLETON RD. SUITE 112
CASTLE ROCK, CO 80109
PHONE: (720) 639-9165
FAX: (720) 639-9134

5626 19TH STREET, SUITE A
GREELEY, CO 80634
Phone: (970) 702-2136
Fax: (970) 702-2951



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

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION
AND CITIZENSHIP
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW - **RANKING MEMBER**

HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC,
AND NONPROLIFERATION

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado
State Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax Ave., Room 136
Denver, CO 80203

Governor Polis,

We write to thank you for your work to protect Coloradans during this unprecedented health crisis and draw your attention to issues affecting our rural health providers and essential workers. Colorado's doctors, nurses, and first responders are working courageously to battle COVID-19 at substantial risk to their personal safety. This is especially true on the Eastern Plains and in other rural areas of Colorado where ventilators, masks, personnel, and other vital supplies are frequently scarce. As such, we urge you to ensure that rural hospitals and clinics receive adequate access to vaccinations and that the vaccination rollout continues to consider the unique needs and concerns of rural Colorado.

The entire state of Colorado is struggling to defeat this virus. While the Front Range has been hit hard by COVID-19, our rural hospitals and health clinics are also facing daunting conditions. We have heard concerning reports from county commissioners and frontline healthcare professionals in rural areas of Colorado that vaccine availability is dangerously inadequate, with facilities typically limited to 100 vaccines per order. This issue has been further complicated by delays in receiving the vaccine shipments, with one hospital in Northeastern Colorado not obtaining their order for multiple weeks, delaying the vaccination of eligible essential workers. We urge you to ensure rural Colorado receives adequate supplies of the vaccine to protect our courageous frontline workers.

Further, we are concerned about the ability of individuals who do not reside in Colorado to receive the vaccine at Colorado health facilities. We understand that for many, a facility in Colorado is closer to their home than a facility in their own state, but with vaccines in such limited supply, we cannot accommodate vaccine-seekers from other states, including those who own vacation homes in Colorado. Current guidance does not require proof of residence, proof of address, or identification of any kind to obtain a vaccine. We respectfully request that you revise this guidance to allow only those who work or reside full time in Colorado to receive the vaccines apportioned to Colorado.

Our rural hospitals and clinics need access to the vaccine to continue combatting COVID-19. Accordingly, we urge you to ensure our brave health professionals and other essential workers on the Eastern Plains and in other rural areas of Colorado have sufficient access to vaccines while preventing “vaccine tourism.” Thank you for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress