

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3313

January 28, 2021

Acting Secretary Norris Cochrane
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Acting Secretary Cochrane,

This past week, I heard concerning reports from healthcare providers and county Public Health Departments in my district of forced cancellations of thousands of COVID-19 vaccination appointments. Cone Health, one of the largest healthcare providers in my district, reported having to unexpectedly cancel as many as 10,400 vaccination appointments. County Health Departments like Davidson have informed me that they too had to cancel all of their vaccination appointments. During the same week, over 35,000 doses went to the Charlotte region, presumably to support super-mass vaccination events at the Charlotte Motor Speedway and Bank of American Stadium. Concerned by the perception of reallocated vaccine doses originally understood to have been for healthcare providers in my district, I contacted state officials to better understand the situation.

Officials in my state have expressed difficulty planning ahead with the short amount of notification time the federal government has given them to allocate vaccines. I understand the Biden Administration has announced plans to increase weekly vaccine supplies to states and give a three week notice to the amount of vaccine doses they will receive. To assist my state in avoiding future complications with vaccine allocations, I am interested in knowing what methods the Department of Health and Human Services will use to distribute additional vaccine doses to the states.

Any information you can provide to help address these concerns would be greatly appreciated. I understand that an expedient national vaccine rollout is a complex undertaking. The more vaccine doses allocated to North Carolina, the sooner we will be able to defeat this pandemic. I thank you and your team for all your hard work and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd
Member of Congress