

Jennifer Dobson

From: Rebecca G. Leach <rebeccal@scretail.org>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Jennifer Dobson
Subject: RE: Invitation to Provide Additional Written Comments to Ad Hoc Committee About Progress of COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Good afternoon, Jennifer –

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment for the Ad Hoc committee members.

In my testimony provided at the first Ad Hoc Committee meeting, I indicated that predictable accessibility to vaccine doses was the number one challenge of our retail pharmacies. Our pharmacies never knew from week to week the amount of doses (if any) that would be provided by the state. This created logistical changes for determining how many of our 609 locations would have access to the vaccine and what staff was needed to administer the vaccine. It also created confusion for the public as they were unsure from week to week if the vaccine would be available in their local store. Since then, I worked with DHEC staff and we have now established a guaranteed weekly allotment for each of our retail pharmacy members. Though this number is far below our capabilities, we appreciate the ability to better plan each week. This consistency will also position us to better serve the public and helps set expectations for our citizens.

Additionally, because the required number of days have now passed since we administered the first round of doses, our retail pharmacies just began receiving second doses. Thus far we have received the number of doses required to administer these second doses and understand from DHEC this consistency should continue.

Also, now that we have access to regularly recurring doses, we would like to assist in underserved areas as our doses allow. Once DHEC identifies the areas in our state in need of access to the vaccine, we will position locations in those areas as we are able to ensure access for those citizens.

Lastly, the federal government recently activated several federal partners in states across the country. CVS is currently serving as the federal partner in South Carolina. This means CVS has begun receiving vaccine doses directly from the federal government so they no longer need to access the state's doses. Currently, CVS is receiving 15,300 first doses each week through this federal partnership. As additional doses are made available through this federal program, CVS will further ramp up their participation and additional federal partners will be activated.

Please let me know if you or committee members have any questions.

Thanks!
Rebecca



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