



January 15, 2021

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown,

As elected officials serving Oregon's largest city, we continue to offer our support to your administration's pandemic response. Like you, we feel continued and increasing urgency to ensure vaccines are quickly and effectively deployed to all Oregonians. The recent announcement regarding the lack of a federal vaccine reserve is a profound disappointment. We support your efforts to demand answers from the Trump Administration.

We all look forward to the swearing-in of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on January 20th. We hope the new administration will work closely with you to help Oregon do its part to meet our national goal of vaccinating 100 million Americans in the new administration's first 100 days.

Cities like Portland are in a unique position to support scaling up vaccine distribution infrastructure, and public engagement and outreach to disadvantaged communities that are "vaccine hesitant." While it is essential to work with state and local public health agencies, healthcare providers, pharmacies, and clinics, there is a need to be nimble and fill gaps that are unique to each local area, especially in major cities like Portland.

We see that necessary outreach needed to lay the groundwork for more widespread vaccination goals has been delayed. We want to help. Portland has the ability, expertise, and local partnerships needed to fill these gaps, especially when it comes to reaching disadvantaged communities.

Portland is well-equipped to partner with Multnomah County and other health systems to support vaccine administration with our credentialed staff like EMTs and paramedics.

And Portland is Oregon's center of business. We are uniquely suited to convene support from logistic and supply chain experts located in our area to create an efficient, effective State response.

Governor, we support your work. We are committed to doing everything we can to support the State in keeping Oregonians safe. We remain ready to contribute Portland's people, facilities, and community engagement support however we can to speed things up and get help to community members.

Let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

Portland Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Portland Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty
Portland Commissioner Dan Ryan
Portland Commissioner Mingus Mapps
Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler