

Dr Steven Kanner

From: Dr Steven Kanner
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 1:09 PM
To: Thomas M. Stanley Committee; 'Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov'; Congresswoman Katherine Clark; 'robert.weisman@globe.com'; kay.lazar@globe.com
Subject: Lack of distribution of Covid-19 vaccines to primary care practices



ORCHARD HEALTH CARE

Dear Representative Thomas Stanley
Senator Mike Barrett
Congresswoman Katherine Clark
Globe reporters Robert Weisman and Kay Lazar

Why have we not had any Covid-19 vaccine distribution to our primary care practice?

Our patients are clamoring for answers and dates certain. We have yet to have communication from DPH as to when a distribution will take place, nor how many doses will actually be delivered. We completed DPH's 50-page detailed application over six weeks ago and got acknowledgement of it.

We have been prepared to vaccinate our patient population since the beginning of December. We purchased a new and larger medical vaccine refrigerator as well as a -40C freezer, equipped with datalogging thermometers, to handle either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. We have retrained our staff in basic life support and purchased a new defibrillator. We are ready.

In the fall we administered flu shots to 70% of our patients with relative ease in an organized set of clinics over several weeks. We are capable of safely administering 70-80 Covid-19 vaccinations per day. We have identified the risk category of all of our patients. We are good to go and have been since December.

Today's **Globe** article by Weisman and Lazar ("Misfires bedevil rollout of vaccines") made **no mention** of the role of primary care practices in the administration of the Covid-19 vaccines. Yet in 2019 there were 2,154,000 influenza vaccinations administered in Massachusetts (data from Mass.gov) for people 18 and older. While there is no detail as to the locales where the flu vaccine was administered, it is likely that at least 80% was in medical clinics, the rest in nursing homes and pharmacies.

Medical practices are a robust and established channel that has successfully provided influenza immunizations to the general population for decades. They should be part of the core Covid-19 vaccine distribution system and publicized as such.

Certainly we will need mass vaccination centers and drug stores as part of the delivery mix, but **ignoring and sidelining** the major established vaccination pathway – medical practices – is dysfunctional.

Please, help us get either the Moderna or the Pfizer vaccine distributed to us promptly so we can start protecting our patients (in accordance with the state priority guidelines) from this horrible disease.

With great concern,

SRK

Steven R. Kanner, MD

Orchard Health Care

210 Bear Hill Road, S. 304

Waltham, MA 02451

T: (781) 684-0600

F: (781) 684-0601

www.orchardhealthcare.com