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# JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Jan. 7, 2021

Secretary-designee Andrea Palm  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
1 W. Wilson St.  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary-designee Palm,

In recent days, my office has been receiving a large number of contacts from constituents throughout my district who are concerned about how the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine is being handled in Wisconsin.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wisconsin is the 10th lowest state out of the 12 in the Midwest in getting a first dose of the vaccine to its residents on a per capita basis. The latest data shows that 1,150 doses are being given per 100,000 state residents – or about 1.2 percent of the population. Only Michigan and Kansas are ranked lower.

Many of my constituents – some of whom are senior citizens or have underlying health conditions – have had their lives upended by the coronavirus and are terrified by the lack of forward movement on Wisconsin's vaccination program. Increased access to the vaccine will go a long way toward alleviating their fears. As such, my constituents demand answers.

On behalf of my constituents, I am respectfully asking you to please provide my office with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' plan to distribute the vaccine. So far, I do not know of any of my legislative colleagues who have actually seen a plan from your agency. Also, I am requesting that you please provide an explanation to my office as to why Wisconsin is lagging behind so many other states.

I am hoping that DHS would be willing to work with the Legislature so we can ensure our residents are getting vaccinated as quickly as possible. I don't think I am overstating the need for transparency regarding your department's vaccination efforts when countless lives could be at stake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Kitchens".

State Rep. Joel Kitchens  
1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District