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**Sent:** Sunday, February 14, 2021 1:55 PM

**To:**

**Subject:** Message from Commissioner Gifford

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear CT COVID vaccine providers:

I want to take a moment to thank you for your incredible hard work over the last two months to get CT residents vaccinated. On February 11, 2021 we vaccinated over 23,000 people in a single day. A new record for us.

Thanks to you, we continue to be in the top 5 states in the country in vaccinating our population. We have reached all of our nursing homes, most of our assisted living facilities, over 55% of our residents over age 75, and 12% of the total population with a first dose. As we start to see our doses coming into CT increase, we anticipate being able to accelerate that pace even further with your help.

We at DPH are inspired by the creativity, commitment, and dedication that we are seeing across our provider network as you stand up these programs in record time, and work to reach those most in need.

We have work to do together to ensure this roll out is equitable – our minority community is not being vaccinated at the same rate as others, and we need to re-double our efforts now to make sure we erase this trend and address vaccine access with the full weight of our efforts. We are focused on this at DPH, and look forward to hearing your ideas. We stand ready to assist and provide resources wherever we can.

I urge you to share this message with your entire team, and thanks for all you are doing.

Deidre

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner, CT Department of Public Health  
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