

Ralph S. Northam

April 8, 2021

Stuart Henochowicz, MD MBA FACP Governor, American College of Physicians, Virginia Chapter 25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Suite 700 Washington, DC 20001-7401

Dear Dr. Henochowicz:

Thank you for your letter and for your invaluable insight on the role that communitybased primary care physicians play in the Commonwealth's COVID-19 vaccination response. We look forward to continued collaboration with the American College of Physicians and other partners to support these healthcare providers, who are working directly on the frontlines of the largest public vaccination campaign in history.

Primary care physicians and their staff are classified as "healthcare personnel" under the <u>VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1a</u>, which opened up to eligible Virginians in December 2020. It is critical that the Commonwealth vaccinate this population as quickly as possible in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the risk of serious illness for both providers and their patients. Anyone in this group who has not yet been scheduled for an appointment should ensure that they have pre-registered and updated their information by visiting <u>vaccinate.virginia.gov</u> or by calling 877-VAX-IN-VA. They may also contact their <u>local health department</u> directly and should receive immediate priority for an appointment.

more detailed guidance for community vaccinators on care coordination, with language advising patients to check in with their primary care physician after they receive their vaccine.

Virginia's vaccine allocation strategy aims to reach as many people as possible in a timely, equitable, and efficient manner and ensure that each local community has adequate overall access to vaccines. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has already on-boarded more than 600 physician practices and community health centers across the Commonwealth as vaccine providers, and local health districts are allocating to new providers every week. We