

Pete Meitzner
Chairman
Commissioner - First District

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

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March 4, 2021

Dr. Lee Norman
Secretary
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Allowing residents with underlying medical conditions to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 2 of the vaccine schedule.

Dear Dr. Norman,

The health, safety, security, and well-being of everyone in Sedgwick County is the utmost importance to the Board of County Commissioners/ Board of Health and County leaders. We understand the importance of collaboration and consistency as we work to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciate the partnership between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Sedgwick County. We continue to vaccinate residents in Phase 1 and 2 of the COVID-19 vaccine prioritization plan at the direction of KDHE. Our efforts are strengthened further by engaged partners in the community ready to assist in dispensing allocated vaccinations to our community and have strong support from the medical community around our vaccination implementation.

During today's Sedgwick County Commission meeting, the Board of Health formalized a strategy to move through Phase 2 of the vaccination plan based on the guidance of our local health officer, Dr. Garold Minns, and several medical advisors. Additionally, we have received numerous requests to allow residents with underlying medical conditions, which increase the risk of serious, life-threatening complications from COVID-19 to be included in Phase 2 of the vaccine plan. We understand that the authority to move from one phase to another rests with the State however, we believe that it is imperative that we advance those in this group to Phase 2. Residents with these underlying medical conditions are certainly at a greater risk of serious complications from COVID-19 including hospitalization and death. Many in the medical community have also emphasized the

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importance of adding those with underlying medical conditions to Phase 2 as well. They stand ready to assist in identifying and vaccinating their patients as quickly as they are allowed.

Thank you for your consideration to this important matter. We believe this is a critical component of keeping our residents safe and healthy as we work to recover from the pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter F. Meitzner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "M".

Peter F. Meitzner, Chairman
Commissioner - First District

cc: Governor Laura Kelly, State of Kansas