



Board of Commissioners

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February 1, 2021

Dr. Amanda Fuller Moore, Pharmacist
Division of Public Health
5605 Six Forks Rd, Building 3
1916 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1916

Dear Dr. Moore:

As Chairman of the Pender County Board of Commissioners, we thank you for your work in addressing the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Pender County has been dealing with multiple challenges in recent years including Hurricane Matthew, Hurricane Florence and now COVID-19. We are resilient and worked hard to meet these challenges, however, we respectfully request your assistance in addressing our concerns regarding the allocation of vaccine doses to Pender County.

First, we are concerned about the disproportionate distribution of the state's weekly allocation of doses to support mass vaccination events in metropolitan areas. Next, we express our grave concerns regarding recent reports released from your office that reflect Pender County is 98th out of 100 in terms of the total number of vaccinations per capita received since mid-December.

While we understand the efficiencies and positive publicity gained by having mass vaccination events in metropolitan areas, the detrimental impact these events have on dose allocation for those that live in rural areas must be addressed. The average citizen who qualifies for the vaccine (i.e. those age 65 and older) is hesitant and/or physically unable to attend these events. The barriers rural residents face in attending these mass vaccination events include transportation issues, fear of exposure, and physical limitation related to walking and standing in long lines.

Furthermore, a review of recent information provided by your office reflects that Pender County is 98th out of 100 in terms of the total number of vaccinations per capita received since mid-December. This vaccination ranking is despite the fact that Pender County is 46th in cumulative population and 65th in population of citizens 65 years and older.

In raw numbers, Pender County has received 1 dose per 19.11 residents while most counties have numbers in single digits. More concerning is the following chart reflecting distribution/population ratios of other comparable counties in North Carolina.



County	Population	Dose/Population
Halifax	50,010	8.16
Haywood	62,317	9.41
Granville	60,443	9.87
Hoke	55,234	8.98
Lee	61,779	8.64
Lenoir	55,949	7.99
Surry	71,783	8.32
Vance	44,535	8.17
Watuaga	56,177	8.29

While we understand and appreciate the incredibly challenging responsibility your office is vested with in regard to the equitable distribution of the available vaccine doses, we respectfully request your office review Pender County's past distribution. In addition, we request that adjustments be made to future allocations to Pender County based on a review of the information provided herein.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request as well as your service to the residents of North Carolina during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully,



George R. Brown, Chairman
Pender County Board of Commissioners

Cc: The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor, State of North Carolina
The Honorable Bill Rabon, Senator, NC General Assembly
The Honorable Carson Smith, Representative, NC General Assembly
Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary, NC Department of Health and Human Services
Mrs. Carolyn Moser, Director, Pender County Health Department