

Dear President-Elect Biden,

Congratulations on your election to President of the United States.

Recently the transition team announced the creation of the COVID-19 Advisory Board comprised of a highly qualified group of health care experts that are being charged with the task of effectively directing the federal response to the pandemic. This board however does not include a pharmacist.

The US Department of Health and Human Services recently announced pharmacists will be allowed to administer the COVID-19 vaccines. Pharmacists have ranked as one of the most trusted and accessible healthcare professionals for many years. Pharmacists have intense training in vaccine safety and administration; this training is documented by certification from the American Pharmacists Association. More pharmacies are offering immunization services thus increasing the number of access points for patients. The general public prefers the convenience of receiving vaccinations from a pharmacist and more than 95% of patients live within 5 miles of a pharmacy. This translates to pharmacists being in a unique and beneficial position to closing the chasm for vaccinations. Pharmacists and pharmacies will play an integral role in the distribution, storage, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines not only in community settings but also in hospitals.

It is crucial in the midst of this pandemic to include a pharmacist as a member of the COVID-19 Advisory Board. This Advisory Board would benefit from the unique perspective from pharmacists who work with patients with COVID-19 daily on the front lines, in the community, in hospitals, and in many other capacities.

I strongly urge the consideration of adding a pharmacist to this critically important Advisory Board.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Eric Christianson, PharmD, BCGP, BCPS  
Real Life Pharmacology Podcast