



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

481 FOURTH STREET, HOLLISTER, CA 95023
PHONE: (831) 636-4000 FAX: (831) 636-4010

Mark Medina
District No. 1

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2

Peter Hernandez
District No. 3

Bob Tiffany
District No. 4

Bea Gonzales
District No. 5

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: COVID-19 Vaccination Requests

Dear Governor Newsom,

As San Benito County Supervisors, we thank you for your leadership during this critical time and your efforts to address the significant health, safety, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We respectfully request your immediate assistance on several critical issues related to the equitable supply and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to San Benito County. Protecting the health and wellbeing of our county residents is of the utmost importance to us. Expanding the vaccination supply will promote the well being of working families, so we can return to a strong economy and normal day-to-day activities. Special consideration must be given to those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as our Latino and farmworker community. Latinos in San Benito County make up 80 % of the total positive COVID-19 population. This high-risk group should be a priority in the vaccination efforts.

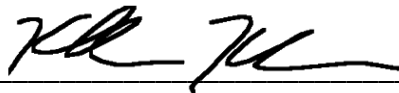
San Benito County ranks the 12th lowest per population vaccination rate among the 58 counties. Our County is not receiving an adequate amount of vaccines to quickly and effectively vaccinate our community. As a rural agricultural county, we expect an influx of migrant agricultural workers coming to our community shortly. In anticipation of receiving more vaccine doses, the County has begun a collaborative effort with State Senator Anna Caballero, Assemblymember Robert Rivas, farmworker advocates, and growers to develop a regional-based program to vaccinate our vulnerable and essential agricultural workforce. This regional-based approach, which includes Monterey County, ensures that farmworkers who are often seasonal and transient remain healthy. We request the State's immediate assistance to allocate additional vaccine doses. San Benito County currently ranks as the 16th highest among the 58 California counties for COVID-19 infections per 100,000 residents. Unfortunately, our jurisdiction had case eight and nine nationwide when the pandemic broke out. Currently, 55 cases have resulted in death due to COVID-19.

On behalf of the County of San Benito, we appreciate your consideration and look forward to working collaboratively to keep our community safe. Our County is ready to work around the clock to ramp up distribution to get more shots in arms and save lives. We thank you again for your leadership during these unprecedented times. We welcome the opportunity to discuss solutions with your team. When we work together, we can end this pandemic and return to a life of pre-pandemic normalcy.

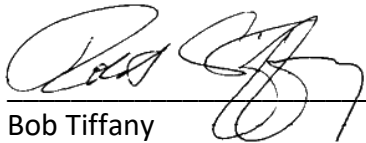
Respectfully,



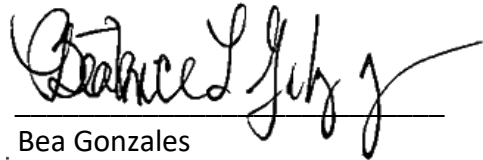
Mark Medina
Chair of the Board of Supervisors
San Benito County




Kollin Kosmicki
Board of Supervisor, 2nd District
San Benito County



Bob Tiffany
Board of Supervisor, 4th District
San Benito County



Bea Gonzales
Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors
San Benito County



Peter Hernandez
Board of Supervisor, 3rd District
San Benito County

cc: Hon. Anna Caballero, 12th Senate District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Rep. Jimmy Panetta, 20th Congressional District
CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer, Tomás J. Aragón , MD, Dr. PH
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)