

September 9, 2020

**Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) Statement on the
Need for Federal COVID-19 Vaccine Resources**

Rockville, Md.—Substantial resources are needed to implement state plans and ensure that cost is not a barrier to any American receiving COVID-19 vaccine. AIM reiterates its call for Congress to include an adequate appropriation in a COVID-19 relief bill or funding agreement in the coming weeks. To date, Congress has not authorized any explicit funding for the critical vaccine distribution activities that need to happen in every community across the nation. Funding only vaccine development without providing adequate resources for distribution, tracking, and monitoring would be tragic. These public health activities include:

- Recruiting and training the necessary additional workforce for state, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments; primary care settings; and pharmacies—with special focus on reaching communities of color and other vulnerable populations;
- Planning to stand-up federally supported supplemental vaccination sites and promote new strategies for mass vaccination, such as drive-thru clinics and clinics in non-traditional locations that are easy to access and are safe for vaccinators and the public;
- Enhancing existing public health infrastructure and adapting immunization information systems—where appropriate—to meet emerging data standards;
- Strengthening vaccine confidence and combating misinformation with federally supported and locally tailored communication, research, and outreach efforts;
- Developing and distributing tools and resources for health care providers prior to the administration of COVID-19 vaccines;
- Purchasing any necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for vaccinators that is not supplied by the federal government, and
- Concurrently supporting influenza vaccination campaigns and other routine immunizations.

Regarding the need for adequate resources, AIM Executive Director Claire Hannan issued the following statement:

“Time is of the essence—we urge Congress to find bipartisan agreement on vaccine distribution resources as soon as possible. There are many challenges ahead. No one expects this will be easy, but my entire experience in public health has shown that the people dedicated to protecting and saving the lives of people they have never even met will find a way to get this done. We have the opportunity to put together a plan now that can help end this pandemic.

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“We can’t afford not to invest in that; and we cannot fail because the lives of our neighbors and the livelihood of our neighborhoods are at stake. A national COVID-19 vaccination program should go down in history as the greatest public health operation of our generation and every American can play a part by keeping informed and supporting their federal, state, and local public health leaders.”

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The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) is a nonprofit membership association which supports the nation’s 64 federally-funded state, territorial, and local public health immunization programs. AIM works to enable immunization managers to work together to effectively prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases and improve immunization coverage in the United States and U.S. territories.