

**COVID-19 VACCINE  
EDUCATION *and*  
EQUITY PROJECT**

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Mandy K. Cohen, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30333

The Honorable Robert Califf, M.D.  
Administrator  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Dr. Cohen and Dr. Califf,

As convening organizations of the [COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Project \(CVEEP\)](#), we write to share with you our support for the timely authorization and/or approval of **updated COVID-19 vaccines in anticipation of the increased threat of respiratory illnesses this fall.**

CVEEP was launched in December 2020, mere days before the first COVID-19 vaccines were authorized for use. Today, we are composed of more than 250 partner organizations representing a broad and diverse range of stakeholders, including health care providers, patient and community groups, employers, teachers and first responders, all working to help build confidence in the development process and science around COVID-19 vaccines. Throughout the pandemic we have appreciated the collaboration and active engagement of your agencies in our efforts to provide the latest information and address questions and concerns about COVID-19 vaccines.

As we await guidance on the availability and use of the updated COVID-19 vaccine, we call on our federal agency partners to deliver that vital information as soon as practically possible.

Timing can be everything. With fall and back-to-school on the horizon, so too are the typical seasonal respiratory viruses – including influenza and RSV – and it is paramount that the updated COVID-19 vaccine be available as our family, friends, and neighbors ready themselves to once again roll up their sleeves to gain protection from these viruses.

Simplifying messaging and communications around the importance of the vaccines during this critical point in the calendar will be essential, particularly as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and others have encouraged co-administration of vaccines and experts warn of yet another “triple-demic” threat. The availability of the updated COVID-19 vaccine coinciding with vaccines for flu and RSV could allow us to improve vaccine uptake and reduce preventable illness.

We have full confidence in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) gold-standard review process and the CDC's recommendation process that have led the way in the vaccine rollout to date and are certain that your agencies can once again meet the moment by making the updated COVID-19 vaccine available to the public as expeditiously as possible. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the timeline for the updated vaccine individually or at an upcoming event hosted by the CVEEP. Please reach out to [info@covidevaccineproject.org](mailto:info@covidevaccineproject.org) if you wish to schedule a meeting with our organizations.

Thank you for all you continue to do in support of our public health.

Sincerely,

The COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Project



Beth Battaglino, RN-C  
CEO  
HealthyWomen



Sue Peschin, MHS  
President & CEO  
Alliance for Aging Research



Karyne Jones  
President & CEO  
National Caucus & Center on Black Aging

CC:

The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Stephen Cha, COVID-19 Counselor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Peter Marks, Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Dr. José Romero, Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention