



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph A. Griffo

Griffo: Most vulnerable should be priority of COVID-19 vaccine distribution

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO January 13, 2021

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New York State Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-I-C-Rome, released the following statement today regarding the state's coronavirus vaccine distribution :

“The state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution process has created a ‘survival of the fittest’ mentality amongst New Yorkers fighting to get a spot in line to be vaccinated. This Darwinian process is unacceptable. A better distribution method needs to be implemented immediately, which is why I am requesting that the chairs of the Senate and Assembly Health Committees – Sen. Gustavo Rivera and Assemblyman Richard Gottfried – hold hearings regarding the state's rollout of the vaccine.

While CDC regulations and state-implemented eligibility are expanding, the existing delivery process is in disarray and the rollout has caused significant and unnecessary confusion. It would be much more prudent to expand eligibility for the vaccine by also prioritizing groups within each recommended segment of that population. This would help alleviate the pressure on an overwhelmed distribution system and ensure a more effective and efficient delivery of the vaccine. I also recognize that high demand has caused access problems for those trying to book vaccination appointments online or over the phone. These problems must be addressed and resolved as quickly as possible.

Additionally, we must ensure that distribution is done in accordance with science and medical protocols. No deviations are acceptable. We also must make it easier for the public determine their eligibility for the vaccine and where they can go to receive it. Doing so would help to reduce the confusion, stress and consternation felt by so many.”

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