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Rep. Sanfelippo Urges Administration to Streamline Vaccine Distribution

Following today's hearing in the Wisconsin State Assembly's Health Committee on the progress of the state's COVID-19 vaccination effort, Committee Chairman Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin), issued the following statement:

"I want to thank the many partners from Wisconsin's healthcare leadership, including representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Health, local health departments, health systems, providers, and advocacy groups around the state, who participated in today's hearing about the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to the people of Wisconsin. I recognize their continued effort in service of accomplishing the unprecedented and herculean task of quickly vaccinating millions of Wisconsinites.

Nevertheless, it is exactly because of the extraordinary nature of this undertaking that I urge the Governor and the leadership within the state health department to speed up the decision-making process and increase the flexibility with which they respond to new developments and guidance that emerge as the vaccine rollout proceeds forward. A lengthy bureaucratic process to determine vaccination prioritization should not impede providers in safely vaccinating as many of our citizens as quickly as possible, especially when national guidance is already available.

Other states have shown that to be possible: when the federal government opened vaccinations up to everyone over age-65 on Tuesday morning, New York [Gov. Cuomo accepted that guidance](#) a few hours later, and those residents were able to schedule their vaccinations for as soon as this week. That same day in Wisconsin, by contrast, the state committee tasked with making priority recommendations was [discussing a draft proposal](#) for future priority guidance based on national recommendations that were already outdated. Similarly, it should not take [negative press attention](#) to keep individual organizations, like some local police and fire departments, [from falling through the cracks](#). Wisconsin can and should do better.

I am encouraged by the productive hearing we had today about the COVID-19 rollout, and I am eager to maintain that momentum moving forward. It is my hope that we can keep lines of dialogue open between the legislature, the state health leadership, and our partners on the frontlines of Wisconsin's healthcare system in order to facilitate the communication and cooperation that we will need to ensure that we can take full advantage of the precious vaccine resources available and quickly provide access to the vaccine to all Wisconsinites."

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The [15th Assembly District](#) includes most of West Allis and the northern half of New Berlin.