



## Midwestern State Agriculture Leaders Encourage Vaccination

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**VARIOUS** – As warmer weather returns and our nation’s agricultural communities gear up for summer events, the leaders of the agricultural departments in six Midwestern states released a [video message](#) today encouraging people to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when they are eligible.

Echoing a similar [message](#) released by the group in December, the new video features recommendations from the following commissioners, directors, and secretaries across the Midwest:

Jerry Costello II, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA)

Dr. Ryan Quarles, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA)

Thom Petersen, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Gary McDowell, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD)

Dorothy Pelanda, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Randy Romanski, Secretary-designee, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

The group of leaders joined together to share their appreciation for essential agricultural and food workers, who have never stopped working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They shared that the three vaccines available to Americans (Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson) are safe and effective. They also emphasized the importance of continued mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing to minimize the spread of COVID-19 while vaccination continues.

The full video can be found [here](#). For more information on each state’s agricultural department, visit their websites:

Illinois Department of Agriculture: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Pages/default.aspx>

Kentucky Department of Agriculture: <https://www.kyagr.com/>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/>

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/>

Ohio Department of Agriculture: <https://www.agri.ohio.gov/>

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection: <https://www.datcp.wi.gov>

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