



Monday, December 28, 2020

In a brighter end to 2020, Illinois hospital-based health care workers rolled up their sleeves over the past 2 weeks and received their first COVID vaccination. This brought hope to the people of Illinois and to the rest of the nation as Illinois has vaccinated more people than any other state.

While we know vaccine deployment takes time, the importance of greater transparency and a timeline for vaccinating health care workers not affiliated with hospitals cannot be understated. In particular, those at our Federally Quality Health Centers (FQHCs) have been staffing drive-up COVID testing and providing care to at-risk patients. Our frontline healthcare workers also include those free-standing primary and specialty care practices as well as dental office practices.

Our state has taken effective steps to control the pandemic and keep health care workers and the public as safe as possible during these unprecedented times. We believe sharing a timeline and process for vaccinating those essential healthcare workers not affiliated with hospitals and other high risk groups is a necessary and critical step towards preventing confusion and further misinformation from spreading. Together, we will be stronger.

Sincerely,

IMPACT (Illinois Medical Professionals Action Collaborative Team)