



Ralph S. Northam
Governor

April 8, 2021

Stuart Henochowicz, MD MBA FACP
Governor, American College of Physicians, Virginia Chapter
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-7401

Dear Dr. Henochowicz:

Thank you for your letter and for your invaluable insight on the role that community-based primary care physicians play in the Commonwealth's COVID-19 vaccination response. We look forward to continued collaboration with the American College of Physicians and other partners to support these healthcare providers, who are working directly on the frontlines of the largest public vaccination campaign in history.

Primary care physicians and their staff are classified as "healthcare personnel" under the [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1a](#), which opened up to eligible Virginians in December 2020. It is critical that the Commonwealth vaccinate this population as quickly as possible in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the risk of serious illness for both providers and their patients. Anyone in this group who has not yet been scheduled for an appointment should ensure that they have pre-registered and updated their information by visiting vaccinate.virginia.gov or by calling 877-VAX-IN-VA. They may also contact their [local health department](#) directly and should receive immediate priority for an appointment.

