



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Alexis Weik

## SENATOR WEIK JOINS LI COLLEAGUES IN URGING STATE: FIX FAILED VACCINE ROLLOUT

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After the Federal Drug Administration issued a first emergency use authorization for the Pfizer vaccine on December 11th, 2020, and the Moderna vaccine on December 21st, 2020, Governor Cuomo launched a vaccine rollout plan across New York State. Since the plan was put into place, there have been serious issues with accessibility to vaccination sites, a lack of information and misinformation regarding the vaccination process, failure to provide comprehensive eligibility criteria, and a massive systemic overload. All of this has resulted in

frustration, confusion, and fear among New Yorkers, many of whom are desperately in need of vaccination.

“My office has been inundated with calls from constituents exasperated by the botched rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. Confusing and shifting eligibility, inaccurate websites with broken links, non-existent vaccine distribution sites, and unanswered phone calls are the result of a rollout program that the State had months to prepare for. Enough! State leaders need to stop the finger pointing and act now to fix the problems and provide clear, unambiguous, and complete information to New Yorkers about where and when they can opt to receive the COVID vaccine,” said Senator Weik.

“Governor Cuomo’s vaccine rollout can only be described as utter chaos. Millions of New Yorkers have no idea when or where they can receive their life-saving shots, and they feel totally abandoned by their state government,” said Senator Phil Boyle.

“This problematic rollout, which originally offered so many hope after a dark year, has only done the opposite, instilling frustration and fear in New Yorkers. The State has only created confusion with announcing availability of vaccines when the truth is no one can access the hotline to get an appointment. The State’s vaccination system has delivered only false promises, and our residents deserve better. We need to work together to get clear information to our residents, work with businesses to get more distribution sites, and work with the federal government to get more doses. That will help all of our residents - most importantly our seniors,” said Senator Mario Mattera.

“Suffolk County is running short on vaccines, and we need more vaccines so local governments can set up sites to distribute them. The lag time is disturbing considering we are only in phase 1B. The state’s vaccination plan has also left behind some of Long Island’s most vulnerable residents. I implore the Governor to increase the supply of vaccines to

Suffolk County, and to give our local government's greater flexibility on determining vaccination sites and eligibility," said Senator Anthony Palumbo.

Anna Foley, a senior citizen and resident of Suffolk County, is a breast cancer and lymphoma patient who has called every possible phone line, researched all available websites, reached out to the county, reached out to the Department of Health, called all the pharmacies, and was ultimately not successful in obtaining any information on how to get vaccinated.

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