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December 28, 2020

The Hon. Mike DeWine, Governor
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

On behalf of the 5,300 family physician, family medicine resident and medical student members of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, I write to urge priority vaccination of community primary care physicians who are not employed by hospitals or hospital systems but who are still on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19. These physicians are providing care to thousands of Americans who have ongoing health care needs unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vaccination of community primary care physicians and their practice staff - particularly those in rural and unserved communities who operate independently from hospitals and hospital systems - needs to be a top priority. These physicians and practices are the foundation of our health care system and should, as a matter of public policy, be protected from this virus so they can safely provide care to the millions of patients they care for each day. The faster we vaccinate all primary care physicians and their teams, the faster they can safely provide care to their communities.

The failure of Ohio to facilitate the immediate and broad vaccination of community-based primary care physicians and their practices will only further compromise the safety of patients who are seeking care for COVID-19 and non-COVID health issues.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request. Your commitment to vaccinating frontline primary care physicians and practices will ensure that vaccination strategies are successful. Please reach out to OAFP EVP Ann Spicer at aspicer@ohioafp.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Sevilla, MD, FAAFP
President