THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

that requires no State funding. Thank you for your
Health and Social Services

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December 29, 2020

Subject: ACoA Public Comment Phase 1B Vaccination Distribution

To: DHSS Vaccine Task Force and Alaska COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Advisory Committee

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) strongly advocates for the Alaska Vaccine Allocation Advisory Committee (AVAAC) to include individuals age 65-75 in schedule 1B of Alaska's Covid-19 vaccine distribution.

According to the CDC website on Covid Risks for Older Adults, 8 out of 10 deaths reported in the US have been in adults age 65 and over. Risk of death from Covid-19 increases with age and by providing individuals over 65 the opportunity to receive the vaccine during the 1B vaccination distribution, Alaska will be protecting its most vulnerable adults.

Offering the vaccine to individuals 65 and over will have a direct positive outcome for all Alaskans. Benefits include reducing social isolation among family members, reducing risk of contracting the virus from direct service workers, reducing utilization of hospital resources for Covid-19 patients, and allowing our senior population the opportunity to begin participating in social and economic activities without fear of contracting the virus.

The ACoA Senior Snapshot population estimates of Alaska seniors indicates the decision to include the 65-75 age group in the 1B vaccine distribution would affect approximately 61,919 Alaskans. Please consider including these Alaskan's in the 1B vaccine distribution to protect Alaska's seniors so they can begin to rejoin society.

Sincerely,

Gordon Glaser

Gordon Glaser, Board Chair
Alaska Commission on Aging

Lisa A Morley

Lisa Morley, Executive Director
Alaska Commission on Aging