



AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD

EDUCATE, ADVOCATE AND INFORM

VIA EMAIL

April 12, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chairwoman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
272 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 2051

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 2051

The Honorable Ian G. Brownlee
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Consular Affairs
U.S. Department of State
600 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Chairman Doggett, Chairwoman Eshoo, Ranking Member Burr, Ranking Member Nunes, Ranking Member Guthrie and Acting Assistant Secretary Brownlee,

As a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(4) representing the millions of Americans that live and work overseas, American Citizens Abroad, Inc. (ACA) is writing to request information on vaccination services available to Americans living abroad as well as to urge the US State Department to provide clear guidance on the options available to Americans living overseas who may wish to be vaccinated in the United States.



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As Americans resident overseas are subject to the same US taxation requirements as US stateside residents, these individuals should have access to the same healthcare opportunities, including free and expedited access to vaccines developed against the novel SARS-CoV-2 Coronavirus. In the past month, ACA has received dozens of letters requesting information on how Americans can obtain access to these vaccines.

First, ACA requests clarification from the US Government and US State Department on opportunities that Americans may have for vaccinations at US embassies and consulates in their country of residence. It is our understanding that vaccination supplies are available for US government employees and contractors working overseas. The same access should be made available to US taxpayers resident overseas where consular services are available.

Secondly, if Americans resident overseas wish to return to the United States to receive vaccination but do not have a current US address, what are the options available to them in which states? How can these Americans register for vaccine appointments? Many Americans living overseas are in priority age groups or risk categories due to pre-existing conditions. They should receive priority status for vaccination along with US residents in the same risk categories.

Lastly, we understand that the US government has recently opened up vaccine access to non-US citizens who may travel to the United States under what is termed "vaccine tourism." While ACA does not take a position on this practice, we respectfully request that the US State Department first clarify the options available for Americans living overseas prior to extending widespread vaccine access to non-taxpaying foreign nationals.

We look forward to receiving a response to our concerns by May 1, 2021. ACA representatives would also be happy to discuss the issue further by phone or video conference at your convenience. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best regards,

Marylouise Serrato
Executive Director
American Citizens Abroad, Inc.

CC: Karen King, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizens Services, U.S. Department of State
Jeremy Cassano, Overseas Citizens Services special assistant, U.S. Department of State
Dean Kaplan, Director American Citizen Services & Crisis Management, U.S. Department of State