



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **Improving Access to COVID Vaccines for Homebound, Rural, and Vulnerable Populations**

**Alexandria, Va.** (January 12, 2021) –The [National Home Infusion Association](#) (NHIA) and [National Association for Home Care and Hospice](#) (NAHC) are urging the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and state health departments to ensure home infusion pharmacies are able to access vaccines and supply them either directly, or in collaboration with home health providers.

NHIA is the leading trade association that represents home infusion therapy providers, as well as companies that manufacture and supply infusion and specialty pharmacy products. NHIA members are primarily community pharmacy organizations with expertise in the handling, preparation, and administration of parenteral, sterile products.

NAHC is the largest home health trade association representing the interests of over 30,000 home health agencies, hospices, and home care agencies that provide nursing, therapy, home care aide, and many other services to over 12 million patients each year.

NHIA and NAHC urge HHS and state health departments to ensure that state licensed home infusion pharmacies are able to access vaccines and supply them either directly, or in collaboration with home health providers for administration to patients already under their care. Additionally, we ask that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recognize the role of each entity is essential to the process, and provide adequate reimbursement for the preparation and dispensing, as well as the administration of vaccines delivered to patients in the home setting.

Together, members of NHIA and NAHC provide home-based services to patients with medical conditions that make it difficult to obtain care outside the home setting, or who have compromised immune systems placing them at a higher risk of serious disease if they contract COVID-19. Home infusion pharmacies and home health nursing providers routinely partner to deliver infused medications to homebound and vulnerable populations. It requires coordination of services among both entities to provide these services.

NHIA and NAHC members can play an essential role in expediting access to COVID-19 vaccines for rural and vulnerable patients, however doing so requires home health and home infusion providers to invest substantial time and resources to procure, prepare, deliver, and coordinate the administration of vaccines. Collectively, we ask for consideration and assistance with mobilizing our members to assist with the distribution of vaccines to higher-risk patients currently receiving care in the home.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Connie Sullivan".

Connie Sullivan, President and CEO  
National Home Infusion Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Dombi".

William A. Dombi, Esq., President and CEO  
National Association for Home Care and  
Hospice

*NHIA is a trade association that represents companies that provide infusion therapy to patients in their homes and companies that manufacture and supply infusion and specialty pharmacy products. Infusion therapy involves patient-specific compounded medications, supplies, and a range of pharmacy, nursing, and other clinical services for delivering care to patients in the home setting. For more information, visit [www.nhia.org](http://www.nhia.org).*

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