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The Secretary presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and wishes to bring to their attention information concerning the eligibility of foreign mission members and their dependents to receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the United States.

As has been widely reported, the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is currently limited. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to provide recommendations to federal, state, and local governments regarding priorities for vaccine distribution; however, each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territory is responsible for prioritizing distribution of its vaccine allocation. Information regarding such vaccine distribution plans can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html>.

It is the federal government's goal for everyone present in the United States, including foreign mission members and their dependents, to have access to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Thus, the Department expects foreign mission members and their dependents to be treated no differently than United States citizens with respect

to their eligibility for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine in line with the vaccine distribution plans established in the jurisdiction in which they reside.

It is also permissible for foreign missions to import COVID-19 vaccines for distribution to their foreign mission members and dependents serving in the United States. To ensure proper handling and procedures are followed, foreign missions are encouraged to discuss such plans with the Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) prior to their government's shipment of such supplies.

The Department will continue to keep the foreign mission community apprised of any significant developments related to this matter.

Inquiries concerning this and other matters related to COVID-19 may continue to be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMGT@state.gov. Past circular diplomatic notes and notices released by the Office of Foreign Missions related to COVID-19 may be found at <https://www.state.gov/office-of-foreign-missions-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-information-and-resources/>.

Department of State,

Washington, February 4, 2021.

