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## United States Senate

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November 2, 2005

Douglas H. Benevento  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

Dear Mr. Benevento:

I am writing out of concern for the distribution of influenza vaccines in Colorado. Clinics, nursing homes, county health departments, physicians and hospitals have contacted my office and are reporting that they have not received, or have received only a fraction, of their influenza orders. While these providers are confident that they will eventually receive the flu vaccine doses from their distributors, they are worried that the doses will not arrive in time to vaccinate high-risk individuals in their communities before the flu season begins.

The providers who have contacted my office are also reporting that though the large retailers and purchasers of the vaccine have received their doses and begun vaccination, many of the smaller providers have not. These reports are of concern to me because many Coloradans, including those living in rural communities, rely on these small providers for their vaccinations.

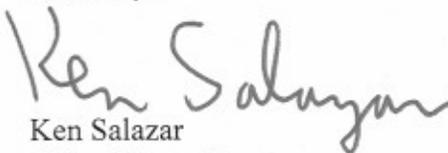
As you know, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment typically has monitored and assisted with the distribution of flu vaccines. I very much appreciate the work you and your staff have done in previous years to ensure that this has happened in an efficient and safe manner.

I would ask, however, that you look into the reports that I have received of distribution problems. With the flu season around the corner, it is vital that our high-risk individuals receive vaccinations as quickly as possible.

I understand that ensuring adequate distribution of vaccines is a shared responsibility between the federal government and the states. So if there is any assistance I can provide you as you investigate and address this issue please let me know.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response and to working with you on this issue in the future.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar  
United States Senator