January 7, 2021

Sidney Wolfe, M.D.
Public Citizen Health Research Group
1600 20th Street, NW
Washington, DC  20009

Dear Dr. Wolfe:

Thank you for your recent letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding the government’s post-COVID-19 vaccination guidance. As the NIH Associate Deputy Director, I am pleased to respond on behalf of NIH.

NIH appreciates your commitment to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, including the ongoing need to reiterate the importance of continuing to practice proven public health measures, such as wearing face coverings and social distancing, to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 even after vaccination.

While we must defer to FDA on the guidance provided in their patient fact sheet to be distributed following COVID-19 vaccination, NIH will certainly be mindful of the points in your letter in our COVID-19 vaccine-related communications.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help ensure accurate and appropriate public health communications, especially during this critical time.

Sincerely,

Tara A. Schwetz, Ph.D.
Associate Deputy Director

cc:
Stephen M. Hahn, M.D., Commissioner, FDA
Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA