

DATE

Governor
Name
Address

Subject: Vaccination Distribution

Dear Governor's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force:

The workers of **(INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME)** have remained on the job since day 1 of the COVID-19 crisis to keep the lights on across **(INSERT STATE)**. For the greater good, these men and women have been putting their personal health at risk every day. We respectfully ask that, as the final version of the **(INSERT STATE)** COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is developed, that the mission essential workers¹ employed by **(INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME)** be prioritized in Phase 1 of distribution, after that of frontline healthcare workers and the most vulnerable.

(INSERT BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF ORGANIZATION). **(INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME)** recognizes the seriousness of the decisions that must be made when it comes to prioritizing, what we hope will be, a safe and efficacious vaccination for COVID-19. We understand that there are many priorities and metrics to consider, including complex coordination with federal and local government partners.

The employees of **(INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME)** are critical to not only the state's economy but are also critical in supporting the healthcare sector's lifesaving treatments, keeping people connected as they continue to socially distance and work from home, and more. Specifically, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has designated certain electric and employees as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers. Additionally, the most critical of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers in the energy sector are deemed by the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC), as mission essential workers. Mission essential workers are a subset of our workforce that are responsible for the fundamental processes and facilities keeping the lights on and energy flowing. These employees are highly specialized and cannot work from home or in isolation from others on the job site.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission among their employee's, **(INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME)** has changed the way they work. For example, many of **(INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME)** employees are using staggered shifts or smaller teams of mission essential workers. However, due to the nature of the work, there are times when these employees need to be in close proximity to each other, making vaccination – and PPE – highly important to the job. Mission

¹ Energy Sector Mission Essential Workers are defined by the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council in their April 2020 document, *Ensuring Energy Reliability Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic: Testing and Protecting Mission-Essential Control Center and Generation Facility Personnel Is Fundamental*, which can be found at https://www.electricitysubsector.org/-/media/Files/ESCC/Documents/ESCC_Mission_Essential_Workforce_2020.ashx

essential workers in grid control rooms often work in open floor plan environments and the work requires frequent consultation between employees. Some work activities also require these employees to be in the community conducting field work, often in teams, which increases their potential exposure to the virus.

Prioritizing vaccination for mission essential workers is consistent with the guidance contained in the October 2, 2020, "Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine" by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). The final report includes the recommendation that critical infrastructure workers be considered for prioritization based upon their job function and exposure to risks

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request the Governor's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force recognize prioritize these mission essential workers during Phase 1 of the Vaccination Plan. Thank you for your consideration of our input. **(INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME)** is committed to serving our communities Please contact me _____ if we can provide additional information or if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

(INSERT SIGNATURE OF SENIOR LEADER)