



January 8, 2020

Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Advisory Group:

First and foremost, thank you for all you are doing to ensure an equitable and expedient distribution of COVID-19 vaccine in Minnesotans. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input as you review federal guidance and make recommendations on vaccine rollout in Minnesota.

The health and safety of customers and employees of Minnesota's retailers are a top priority for the Minnesota Retailers Association. On behalf of our members across the State we ask that you continue to support the importance of vaccinating essential workers including front line retail workers at the earliest possible time.

We strongly agree with the December 20 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation that vaccinating essential workers who serve customers each and every day—and have done so throughout the pandemic—is an important step in combatting COVID during Phase 1(b), and ask that you categorize retail workers in line with the ACIP recommendation.

In addition, as the vaccine rollout in Minnesota gains momentum, know that our retail pharmacies stand ready to play a vital roll in partnering with the State to expedite vaccination. Along with that, with strong connections in their communities, retailers can help facilitate community vaccine events through use of their stores, parking lots and other property. Please consider putting the strong community connections of retailers to use!

Thank you for working to move Minnesota forward. The Minnesota Retailers Association looks forward to being a strong partner with the State on vaccine rollout.

Sincerely,

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