

March 22, 2021

The Honorable Jay Inslee,
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Vaccines for Retail Workers

Dear Governor Inslee:

I am writing to urge you to include frontline retail workers in the high priority Tier 4 group effective March 31. As you know, many of these workers have been classified as essential workers throughout the pandemic, ensuring that Washingtonians had continued access to the essentials of life.

The retail industry is the 3rd largest employer in Washington State representing approximately 400,000 workers and supporting 1 in every 4 jobs. Retailers are a fundamental part of the daily lives of Washingtonians, supporting our communities and offering a variety of goods and services that provide for families and businesses alike.

As you know, the process of approving vaccines for use to combat COVID-19, and appropriate ordering of its distribution, is a critical first step in getting our economy and community life back on track. We commend you and your team for your diligence and dedication providing access to the vaccine for citizens that need it most.

We recognize how difficult it is to prioritize eligibility for high-risk groups, so we are pleased to see our hard-working grocery workers included in Tier 2 of the vaccination rollout. With the increasing supply of available vaccine, we ask that you include all frontline retail workers in the high priority Tier 4 group.

We all will benefit if those who face the highest risk, get vaccinated first. Moreover, strong acceptance of vaccinations by the diverse retail workforce can assist in positive behavioral modeling during these next crucial months.

This is a crisis unlike any we have seen in our lifetime, and we appreciate all that you are doing to keep Washingtonians safe and healthy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please reach out with any questions or feedback.

We look forward to continuing to work with your team and you on solutions that will help get retailers open and serving their communities safely.

Sincerely,



Renée Sunde
President & CEO
Washington Retail Association

CC: Nick Streuli, Executive Director, External Affairs; Sheri Sawyer, Senior Policy Advisor, General Government