



Air Conditioning Contractors of America

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December 4, 2020

Doctor José R. Romero, MD, FAAP
Chair, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
c/o Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H24-8
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Re: Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Dear Chairperson Romero and members of the committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), the leading national association serving heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) contractors. ACCA members are a backbone of the American economy who have been deemed essential under Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidelines as well as state and local authorities throughout the country. Our members have worked tirelessly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to keep several components of our nation's critical infrastructure operational. They are responsible for designing, installing, and maintaining HVACR systems that protect our food supply chain, ensure modern medicine is possible, enable data centers to operate, and provide essential comfort and air quality needs to every home, healthcare facility, and office building in the country.

ACCA recognizes and applauds the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) efforts to ensure a safe, efficient, and effective introduction of the newly formed COVID-19 vaccine(s) to the American public. We understand and support the proposed plan of prioritizing the first round of vaccine distribution to frontline healthcare workers and highest-risk populations and communities. We do ask, though, that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) prioritize HVACR contractors and technicians under Phase 1B distribution plans.

ACCA members work in both residential and commercial settings where potential COVID-19 exposure is a real and constant threat. Moreover, the essential nature of their work makes it a something that they are forced to contend with daily. As mentioned, HVACR professionals are needed to service the equipment that keeps our food supply chain, modern medicine systems, and data centers operational—in addition to more generally assuring comfort and air quality. Access to COVID-19 vaccinations will protect the lives of ACCA members as well as their customers and other professionals that they encounter while on the job.

ACCA members have taken the necessary steps to abide by COVID-19 related best practices as well as state and local orders and guidelines. While provisions like social distancing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and increased sanitation have undoubtedly helped mitigate

the spready of COVID-19 and saved lives, transmission of the virus at some level is unavoidable—especially given the fact that those who are asymptomatic can still spread it. It is our sincere hope that rapid access to COVID-19 vaccinations will resolve this issue and restore safety and peace of mind for HVACR professionals in the United States and those they serve.

ACCA sincerely thanks the ACIP for their work to develop vaccination guidance for the United States as well as their leadership during these difficult times. We look forward to the rollout of a COVID-19 vaccine and the distribution plan that will accompany it. We will also be sure to keep our members apprised of any developments regarding its availability to them as essential workers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at chris.czarniecki@acca.org

Sincerely,



Chris Czarnecki
Government Relations Representative
Air Conditioning Contractors of America