



December 16, 2020

Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Health and Welfare Building
8th Floor West
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: PENNSYLVANIA BUS ASSOCIATION COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Dear Secretary Levine:

The Pennsylvania Bus Association (<http://pabus.org/>) was founded in 1923 and has functioned without interruption and with an unrelenting commitment to the safety of the traveling public and the economic well-being of its member companies. PBA boasts a well-rounded program of activities for both bus operator and supplier members and carries a current membership of over 750 entities. Governmental affairs, travel and tourism marketing, education, safety, and communication constitute the major areas of involvement for this, one of the oldest public passenger transportation associations in the United States.

I am writing to you requesting confirmation and/or clarification on whether our essential workers, motorcoach/bus drivers, will be a priority to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as stated in Pennsylvania's [COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan](#). Specifically, on pages 13-14, the plan lists "*Critical Workers: Phase 1B: Essential business personnel who cannot work remotely or maintain social distancing.*"

Transportation Systems Sector:

- Drivers of high occupancy vehicles (more than 6) or drivers participating in medically necessary services

I would also like to seek clarification on whether there is further action needed by each individual company to ensure availability and distribution of the vaccine.

The motorcoach industry provides vital transportation services, playing an essential role in the national transportation network. We have been designated critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security for our role in providing transportation to the military as well as supporting evacuations in the event of natural disasters. We are essential to transport safely our military, youth groups, sports teams, travel and tourism, commuters, schools, natural disaster evacuation, entertainer travel as well as the entire transportation network.

Please help our drivers receive the vaccine in a priority manner, so we can continue safe transportation for all our passengers.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Cowley, Executive Director