

December 14, 2020

Governor Andrew Cuomo, Chair
Governor Asa Hutchinson, Vice Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, D.C. 20001

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Chair Cuomo and Vice Chair Hutchinson:

The undersigned organizations, representing medical imaging providers and manufacturers, support the implementation of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) vaccine distribution recommendation, "Interim Recommendation for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine."

We specifically request that states follow the CDC's recommended guidance of health care personnel (HCP) in Phase 1a. In the Recommendation, ACIP defines HCP as "paid and unpaid persons serving in the health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials." *We strongly urge you to include those in the healthcare infrastructure in your states' definition of Phase 1a, including sonographers, radiation therapists, nuclear medicine technologists, radiologic technologists, and medical device servicers.*

Due to the essential nature of these jobs, health care providers and device servicers come into direct exposure with the virus. From the start of the pandemic, these frontline workers have been risking their lives daily as they tirelessly care for COVID-19 patients by conducting echocardiograms, chest x-rays, CT scans, radiation therapy, and device servicing. These providers have essential roles in diagnosing and treating the virus and therefore, it is necessary that they be included in the initial group receiving the vaccine.

Not only have providers and device servicers been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have also been continuing the important work of conducting screenings, cancer treatments, imaging, and servicing medical devices, among other essential work. Being first in line to receive the vaccine will allow these health care providers to safely continue serving patients.

We thank you for your efforts to protect our essential health care personnel as you draft your vaccine distribution plans.

Sincerely,

Americal Society of Radiologic Technologists
The Association for Medical Imaging Management
Association for Quality Imaging
Center for Diagnostic Imaging

Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance
Radiology Business Management Association
Shields Health Care Group
Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Society of Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging