



December 10, 2020

Dr. Jose R. Romero
Chair
Secretary of Health
Arkansas Department of Health
Little Rock, AR

Dr. Amanda Cohn
Executive Secretary
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, GA

Dear Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Members:

We are writing to you as employees and employers who work to provide safe and efficient air transportation for our nation and the world. We appreciate the transparent approach and the critical work you are doing to ensure that your recommendations for vaccine allocation are made based on science, implementation realities, and ethics.

As you are aware, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has designated aviation workers as essential to maintaining our nation's critical infrastructure. In addition, aviation workers are also frontline workers who either encounter the traveling public frequently or are required to perform our work in close proximity to our colleagues and require us to be onsite. While our employers have implemented multiple layers of protection for the well-being of the traveling public and employees, the very nature of these jobs exposes the aviation workforce to risk similar to other frontline workers. Nevertheless, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked tirelessly to deliver much needed medical supplies, personnel, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to places in need.

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As our country eagerly looks towards the FDA approval of this lifesaving vaccine, aviation workers will once again rise to the occasion. The vaccine distribution effort will be complex and involve extensive collaboration between federal and state governments along with private organizations. To succeed, the United States will need every asset available to perform optimally — including the frontline workers that keep our nation's safe and efficient air transportation system operational.

Given the scientific, implementation and ethical considerations, we ask that you prioritize these frontline aviation workers in the next phase of vaccine allocation (Phase 1b) after health workers and residents in long term facilities in your upcoming recommendations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Air transportation will be essential to fight back against the virus and return to normal, even if it is a new normal. As crewmembers, machinists, air traffic controllers, customer service representatives, airport workers, and recognizing other government frontline partners in the FAA, TSA, and CBP, we stand ready to carry the vaccines, medical supplies and healthcare professionals that will help our nation defeat this virus, giving us hope for a healthy future and full economic recovery.

Sincerely,

Air Line Pilots Association, International
Airlines for America
Airports Council International
Allied Pilots Association
American Association of Airport Executives
Association of Flight Attendants – CWA
Cargo Airline Association
Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations
Independent Pilots Association
International Air Transport Association
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Flight Services Association
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
Regional Airline Association
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association
The Airlines Passenger Experience Association
Transport Workers Union of America