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CDC Includes Specific Public Works Personnel in COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Kansas City, MO – December 23, 2020 – December 20, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) released “[Phased Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccines](#),” including the following specific public works related personnel categories recommended by the American Public Works Association (APWA):

- First Responders;
- Public Transit;
- Transportation and Logistics;
- Internet Technology (IT) and Communication;
- Public Safety (Engineers);
- Water and Wastewater.

These jobs are not only critical to the continuity of protecting the lives of all Americans, but many are at a heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 due to their daily contact with the public. Furthermore, the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has identified these functions as operations that are vital to state and local governments maintaining normal operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In August, CISA reiterated the importance of public works during the COVID-19 pandemic through the release of its recommended “Essential Critical Infrastructure Industries” guidelines. The CDC’s current interim recommendations cite the CISA guidance, and public works and logistics is now specifically listed.

“Although we know that each of the states will ultimately develop the priority list for COVID-19 vaccinations, we felt it was important to first reach out to the federal government through the CDC and White House. APWA will provide its members with a checklist and information for public works professionals to contact their appropriate state agencies and make them aware of the variety of jobs within public works that are so critical to the public safety and health of all Americans,” said APWA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Scott D. Grayson, CAE.

“It is so important to us that public works continues to bring a sense of normalcy to a period of time that has been anything but normal. By providing the federal and state governments with a

comprehensive list of public works job functions, we hope to protect public works personnel, as well as the public,” said APWA President Mary Joyce Ivers.

In a December 7 [letter](#) to the CDC, APWA requested that specific frontline public works personnel be considered for inclusion in the CDC priority guidelines to states for dissemination of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 30,000 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy, and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, MO, has an office in Washington, D.C., and 63 chapters and 97 branches throughout North America.