



February 1, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor, State of Ohio

Dear Governor DeWine:

You and your staff have been amazing with balancing priorities during this Pandemic. Keep up the selfless work. We added our voice in 2020, along with the Ohio Manufacturers Association, Ohio Chamber of Commerce and many more about what should be deemed essential in the bioscience industry. We are adding our supportive voice again.

Ohio's bioscience companies, produced massive amounts of PPE, helped develop and administer the vaccines, and some maybe even manufactured in Ohio. Our industry has never been more focused and more collaborative than now.

On behalf of hundreds of our member companies and more than 100,000 employees, **we request that your administration consider certain bioscience industry personnel who reside and/or work in our state to be considered as essential workers slated to receive a COVID-19 vaccine during the early phases of immunization.** Specifically, we ask that workers involved in research, development, and manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, diagnostic and agricultural biotechnology products, and their respective supply chains be recognized as eligible for Phase 1B of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) framework. This will help reduce disruption to our nation's diagnostic, medicine, and food supply during the pandemic.

Workers at manufacturing facilities (including bioscience companies and those companies that have shifted production to medical supplies), materials and parts suppliers, technicians, logistics and warehouse operators, printers, packagers, distributors of medical products and equipment (including third party logistics providers, and those who test and repair), personal protective equipment (PPE), isolation barriers, medical gases, pharmaceuticals (including materials used in radioactive drugs), dietary supplements, commercial health products, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies (including dispensers), sanitary goods, personal care products, pest control products, and tissue and paper towel products.

We agree without question that front-line health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities take priority and should receive the very first doses of the vaccine. And you are doing that! Thank you.

Please see the attached, a letter from the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) that was recently sent to the National Governors Association (NGA), which lays out this position in more detail.

We stand ready to help however we can and appreciate your leadership through this challenging time in our state's history.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

John F. Lewis Jr.
BioOhio, President & CEO

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