

December 21, 2020

Dear Governor Abbott:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented health and response challenges for state governments throughout the United States. Texas is no exception to that. While the availability of COVID-19 vaccines provides hope for ending the pandemic, determining how to allocate the limited vaccine supply is a monumental challenge. As you make the critical decisions about which individuals should receive priority access to the vaccine, the National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD) urges you to include chemical distribution workers in the early essential worker tiers because of the industry's crucial role in ensuring the well-being of both citizens and businesses throughout Texas as well as the high level of contact these individuals have with others.

NACD, established in 1971, is an international association of chemical distributors and their supply-chain partners. NACD member companies process, formulate, blend, re-package, warehouse, transport, and market chemical products for over 750,000 customers. The chemical distribution industry that NACD represents is a major economic engine, creating jobs for nearly 137,000 people and delivering valuable products to every industry sector.

Presidential Policy Directive 21: Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience, designates the chemical industry as one of 16 sectors whose assets, systems, and networks are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation would have a debilitating effect on national security, national economic security, and national public health or safety. The chemical distribution industry is the heart of the chemical supply chain as the vital link between chemical manufacturing and industrial and consumer product manufacturing. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has designated chemical distribution as an essential industry in its [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Guidance](#).

NACD members provide the base materials needed to produce pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, consumer products, cleaning supplies, and food – all items in high-demand by medical professionals and citizens dealing with COVID-19. Chemical distributors are also a crucial supply chain link for civil services, including the critical function of water treatment.

As the intermediaries between chemical manufacturers and 750,000 customers, chemical distribution workers have a high level of contact with others, including while handling products in warehouses and delivering products to the customers. It is critical for chemical distribution workers to receive early vaccines to be able to continue to carry out these vital functions.

Though the current crisis is undoubtedly a significant test for our country's institutions, the chemical distribution industry is a proud partner to government and businesses working to combat the impact of the coronavirus. NACD along with its members in the state of Texas urge you to keep the critical nature of our business operations in mind as you implement your COVID-19 vaccine distribution strategy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric R. Byer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "B".

Eric R. Byer
President and CEO