



December 18, 2020

Governor Andy Beshear  
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100  
Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: COVID-19 Vaccinations for the Water Sector (drinking water & clean water services)

Dear Governor Beshear:

As the state of Kentucky develops plans for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky & Tennessee (CWP-KT) asks that our frontline utility staff members receive priority in Phase 1-B. This phase includes “people who play a key role in keeping essential functions of society running and cannot socially distance in the workplace,” as described in the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations*.

Vaccinating frontline drinking water and wastewater utility staff members is particularly important because, as a lifeline sector, water sector services underpin all aspects of society, including hospitals and long-term care facilities. Due to the specialized skills and licenses required for utility operations, and the corresponding challenges in finding replacements for staff members who may become ill or exposed, it is essential to mitigate staff members’ COVID-19 risks through all possible means, including vaccinations.

Water services are essential for keeping these facilities operating and for protecting public health. We understand the limited supply of the vaccine in Phase 1-B, and prioritize water sector essential staff as follows:

1. Certified Operators
2. Laboratory Personnel
3. WTP & WWTP on-site Personnel
4. Field Operation Crews
5. Office Staff

I appreciate your consideration of our critical water workers in your vaccine prioritization plans. Please contact me at 502.396.7424 or [Wesley.Sydnor@louisvilleMSD.org](mailto:Wesley.Sydnor@louisvilleMSD.org) if you have any questions or would like to discuss vaccine prioritization for our essential workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley Sydnor".

Wesley Sydnor, PE Governmental Affairs Committee Co-chair

