



December 18, 2020

Governor Bill Lee
1st Floor, State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

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

Dear Governor Lee:

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 615.490.8110 or Squalls@hazenandsawyer.com if you have any questions or would like to discuss vaccine prioritization for our essential workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Saya Ann Qualls-Hickey".

Saya Ann Qualls-Hickey, PE, ENV SP
Tennessee Government Affairs Chair