

December 15, 2020
Governor Brian P. Kemp
c/o Ryan Loke
203 Capitol Place SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Kemp:

I am writing on behalf of Georgia Bio, the state's leading life sciences association, to request that the state consider certain biotechnology industry personnel who reside and/or work in Georgia to be considered as essential workers slated to receive a COVID-19 vaccine during the early phases of immunization. Specifically, I am requesting that workers involved in research, development, manufacturing and distribution of biopharmaceuticals and agricultural biotechnology products be included in Phase 1B of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) framework. This will mitigate any disruption to our state and nation's medicine and food supply during the pandemic.

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. We also think our nation and state must ensure essential and lifesaving services continue to move forward as we attempt to beat back this pandemic, which is why we are urging that biotechnology industry workers be included as part of the Phase 1B essential workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Please see the attached letter from the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) that was recently sent to the National Governors Association (NGA), which lays out our position in more detail. I also want you to know that our industry fully recognizes the challenge you and your administration face as you prioritize when our citizens receive the vaccine. 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,



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