



December 2, 2020

Governor Tim Walz
Commissioner Jan Malcolm
Infectious Disease Director Kris Ehresmann
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

RE: Phase 1A Vaccine Distribution to the Home Care and Hospice Health Care Workforce

Dear Governor Walz, Commissioner Malcolm, and Director Ehresmann,

Thank you for all of your leadership during the COVID-19 public health emergency. We write to you today in support of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) December 1 decision to prioritize health care workers for Phase 1A vaccine access, which includes providers of health care services in the home.

Home-based providers are working aggressively to prevent any spread of the virus. The individuals we serve often have complex service needs and are at high risk for COVID-19, and our workforce frequently goes to multiple sites on a daily basis – private homes, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and inpatient hospice facilities. It is important that all home care and hospice service providers (North American Industry Classification System [NAICS] classifications [621610 Home Health Care Services](#) and [624120 Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities](#)) are included in this prioritized phase for vaccinations. The nature of the services provided by aides, attendants, and direct support professionals focus on assisting with Activities of Daily Living, putting them in close contact with their patients for extended periods of time which increases the risks of contracting and/or transmitting the virus.

We are appreciative of Minnesota's established connections with home care and hospice, and we recognize that the ultimate decision on prioritization of vaccine administration rests with the state and localities. Our organizations stand ready to assist in any way you deem appropriate as the state vaccination plans are developed and implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathy Messerli'.

Kathy Messerli, Executive Director
MN HomeCare Association
www.mnhomecare.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Hausauer'.

Jessica Hausauer, Executive Director
MN Network of Hospice and Palliative Care
www.mnhpc.org