

December 15, 2020

Dear Members of the COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Advisory Group,

On behalf of child care providers across the state, we are writing to urge you to prioritize child care workers in the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine. From the very start of this pandemic child care providers have been on the frontlines. We have kept our doors open to serve the children of other essential workers. In doing so, child care providers have taken on health risks as well as significant financial burdens. The Governor has frequently voiced support for child care providers and highlighted how this pandemic has made our essential work even more apparent. We hope that your committee will continue that support by prioritizing access to Covid-19 vaccinations.

When the pandemic hit Minnesota and most businesses and schools closed their doors, child care providers remained open to serve the families who needed us most. And we have remained open throughout this crisis. In doing so, teachers have put themselves at risk – when working with children, social distancing is not an option as they need our physical, emotional and intellectual support at this critical age. Early access to a vaccine would allow teachers and parents peace of mind that these vital interactions can continue safely. Vaccinated child care workers protect not only themselves, but the children and families around them.

When a child care worker gets Covid-19, the ripple effects in both health and economic terms are major. When a teacher gets sick, classrooms are forced to close and parents must keep children home, jeopardizing their own ability to work. Closing classrooms also has a dramatic financial impact on already stressed providers who are running at much lower capacity while costs to provide safe care have dramatically increased.

For these reasons, we ask you to prioritize child care providers in accessing the vaccine. Protecting them protects Minnesota's children and our workforce.

Sincerely,



Chad Dunkley  
President



Alli Zomer  
Vice President



Clare Sanford  
Government Relations Chair