

January 4, 2021



To: Governor Newsom
Community Vaccine Advisory Committee

RE: Cannabis Workers - Prioritized Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

Dear Governor Newsom and Community Vaccine Advisory Committee:

We applaud and support the efforts to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine beginning with essential workers. The United Cannabis Business Association represents cannabis industry workers throughout the entire supply chain, cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, testing, and retail. On behalf of the cannabis industry, we respectfully request to be included as part of the Phase 1B Tier 1 group of the vaccine distribution plan.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health was the first to recognize and acknowledge the essential nature of safe access to cannabis medicine for its residents. Counties throughout the State of California followed making the same recognition.

In the continued challenges of a new industry combating continued stigma, severe limitations of local authorization, and a massive illicit market, we have proudly accepted the responsibility of being essential workers. Throughout it all, we responsibly implemented solutions to keep both cannabis workers and the patients we serve safe. UCBA produced and shared thousands of gallons of disinfectants as well as tens of thousands of PPE's with cannabis operators and community groups at a time when neither were easy to come by.

Our businesses and workers have proven not only to be essential in providing legal, regulated and safe cannabis medicine but also in bolstering the economic needs of many local and state governments as a strong tax revenue base throughout these challenging times.

As the latest wave of COVID-19 infections seems to increase daily it is crucial for essential cannabis workers to be vaccinated in effort to help thwart the threat of further spread to the numerous patients they come in contact with on a daily basis.

Should outbreaks of the virus result in closure of our businesses, then Californian's will only have the option of obtaining their medicine from the massive and unregulated illicit market which is unlikely to follow the same safety standards and social distancing protocols meant to protect our communities. The closure of our businesses would only serve to further exacerbate the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

We respectfully ask that cannabis workers, who are deemed essential, to be included in the Phase 1B Tier 1 vaccine distribution plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonatan Cvetko".

Jonatan Cvetko
Executive Director
United Cannabis Business Association