

December 3, 2020

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road NE  
MS H24-8  
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027



**RE: Docket No. CDC-2020-0121, December 1, 2020 Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments regarding the December 1 meeting of the ACIP (Docket No. CDC-2020-0121). NPPC is a national association representing the federal and global interests of 60,000 U.S. hog farmers. NPPC supports the recent ACIP recommendation regarding the prioritization of healthcare workers and certain other high-risk individuals for the first phase of COVID-19 vaccinations. NPPC also supports the subsequent prioritization of food and agriculture workers, including livestock producers and meat workers, for vaccine administration.

America's hog farmers remain committed to their essential role in supporting the nation's food security. In anticipation of COVID-19 vaccines being approved and made available, the CDC and other federal and state partners must recognize the vital role that food and agriculture workers—including livestock producers and meat workers—play in maintaining the supply chain that keeps store shelves and pantries stocked. Agriculture and food workers should be included as a priority group for vaccine distribution, directly after groups recommended for inclusion in Phase 1-A, such as healthcare workers and certain other high-risk individuals. Accordingly, NPPC supports the CDC's recommendation placing food and agricultural workers in Phase 1-B.

The COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on U.S. livestock agriculture and meat production, with impacts felt across the supply chain. Despite these challenges, the industry adapted to ensure the supply of nutritious protein to consumers. Recognizing the critical importance of the food supply to our national security, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) included food and agricultural workers as essential. Since that time, numerous improvements have been made to strengthen the continuity of the food supply chain. With COVID cases on the rise in many states, vaccinations will play a key role in protecting essential workers, such as those in the food sector. It is imperative that on-farm and in-plant workers, who are integral to keeping Americans fed, have early access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard A. Roth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Howard "A.V." Roth  
President  
National Pork Producers Council

*The Global Voice for the U.S. Pork Industry*