

October 5, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
Biden for President  
1500 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Establishing an Effective National Vaccination Distribution Plan

Dear Mr. Vice President:

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A thoughtful and comprehensive plan to get the ultimately approved vaccines for the coronavirus is necessary to lower that threat, and to ensure that the construction industry can continue to provide for the other critical sectors of the economy. That is why the Associated General Contractors of America, on behalf of the commercial construction industry, respectfully puts forward

The plan should begin with the vulnerable populations. Next, the essential workers at greatest risk of infection, such as health care workers and first responders and other essential workers who cannot work from home, such as construction workers, should follow. While the construction industry has gone to great lengths to protect its workers from the coronavirus, and it has been very largely successful, its workers merit priority over other essential workers who have the option of working remotely.

3. Ensure that Vaccination Distributions Do Not Lead to Needless Economic Disruptions.

AGC believes that both the public and public officials will require assurance that the distribution of vaccines will be rational, orderly and relatively quick. Otherwise, they may overreact to the news that vaccines are available. AGC perceives a risk that public officials may demand or require even essential businesses to shut down until the vaccines are widely distributed. Such shutdowns would inflict additional hardships on countless workers and their families. And they would be in complete disregard of the widespread safety protocols that have been put in place to allow essential economic activity to continue, safely, during the pandemic. A thoughtful and responsive plan for the nationwide distribution of vaccines would mitigate the risk of such disruptions and any need for federal preemption of state or local laws.

The federal government and the private sector have gone to great lengths to facilitate the development of multiple vaccine candidates that will, hopefully, soon be approved and made available. The tremendous potential for this hard work and innovation to turn the country around will not, however, be realized if the subsequent distribution of vaccines is wholly delegated to state and local governments. There is the real potential that conflicting and confusing priorities at the state and local level will undermine the distribution process. In addition, the advent of the new vaccines may, ironically, lead to more economic disruption if not handled in a manner that inspires confidence. AGC respectfully requests that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) take the following steps to ensure that the distribution of vaccines is as smooth and efficient as possible.