



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

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February 1, 2021

Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky, Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Walensky,

Throughout the COVID-19 emergency, America's truckers have been categorized as essential and continued working to ensure grocery shelves stay stocked and hospitals and essential services have the supplies they need.

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association is the largest trade association representing the views of small-business truckers and professional truck drivers. We represent more than 150,000 members who have continued working through this emergency to keep our country healthy, safe and productive.

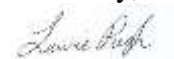
Truck drivers face distinct challenges when it comes to accessing healthcare and particularly anything related to COVID-19. On average, our members spend more than 200 days away from home each year.

Our members are concerned about how they will gain access to COVID-19 vaccinations while continuing to work. It will likely be logistically difficult and economically disruptive. Few truckers know precisely where they will be from week-to-week, making it difficult to return home for shots and often impossible to predict where they may be located when it's time for a second booster. Even those who are capable of getting vaccinated while they work will undoubtedly experience difficulty accessing vaccination sites – visiting a clinic, pharmacy or medical facility by car is much easier than finding a location to temporarily park a commercial motor vehicle.

Providing vaccinations, preferably one-time dosages, at the already available truck stop clinics or rest areas throughout the country would be a viable solution to ensuring essential workers in the trucking industry are receiving the protection they need.

While truckers certainly appreciate the thanks that officials and the public have heaped on them for their work, that doesn't protect them from the health risks they continually face. Truck drivers have put their own health on the line to get the job done. Please make truck drivers a priority in distributing the vaccine and make it available where they can access it easily.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewie Pugh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Lewie Pugh

Executive Vice President

Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association