ata American Translators Association

The Voice of Interpreters and Translators

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Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

January 22, 2021

Dear Dr. Walensky,

On behalf of the American Translators Association, representing spoken language interpreters, language service companies, and language access advocates, I am writing again to urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to explicitly include onsite medical and interpreters in other settings, like the courts, among the listed examples of health care personnel (HCP) eligible for Phase 1 vaccinations.
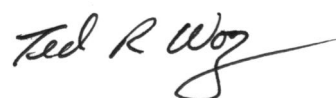
We attach our initial letter of December 17, 2020, addressed to your predecessor, and his response of 01/20/2021. While we appreciate the response, it is inadequate. Because state and local health authorities make final determinations as to who qualifies as HCP or essential personnel for purposes of vaccination tiers, omitting interpreters by name has led to situations where they are excluded from Phase 1 vaccinations.

We urge you to issue explicit guidance to prioritize these essential workers into Phase 1. As an example, under the Phase 1c guidelines, Court Reporting and Stenotype Services are listed, but interpreters, who are required to stand in much closer proximity to perform their work, are not.

The NAICS Code for interpretation is 541930. In-person **medical interpreters** specifically, must be included under the ACIP Recommended Vaccine **Phase 1a**. In-person **court interpreters**, specifically, must be included under the ACIP Recommended Vaccine **Phase 1b**.

If you or your staff should have further questions, they may be directed to Mr. Ted Wozniak, President, American Translators Association, and to William P. Rivers, Ph.D, Principal, WP Rivers & Associates, Bill@wpriversassociates.com.

Sincerely,

Ted Wozniak, President, ATA