



January 13, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Minnesota athletic Trainers' Association (MATA), we request that athletic trainers be considered within the first distribution group for the COVID-19 vaccine. The MATA represents more than 1000 athletic trainers in the state of Minnesota. Our mission is to improve the quality of healthcare for athletes, patients and clients by enhancing the profession of athletic training through leadership, education, and cooperative efforts with all allied health professions.

Most of the athletic trainers in Minnesota are hired or contracted through hospital systems. As a result, the majority of those have received the COVID-19 vaccination. However there are still a number of athletic trainers who are employed independently in the secondary school, rehabilitation center, university, private, or other employment setting. Those athletic trainers are finding it difficult to be considered for approval to receive the vaccine.

Recognized by the American Medical Association since 1990, Athletic Trainers are health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries. Athletic trainers are also recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service by being eligible for a National Provider Identification (NPI) number. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, athletic trainers have served on the frontlines providing health care services to patients through a variety of settings including health care facilities, sporting events, and in the broader community setting. Through a variety of roles, athletic trainers continue to provide support with patient evaluation, screening, testing, transportation, and documentation in settings where health care is delivered. This induces repetitive, direct interaction with distribution group for the COVID-19 vaccine when available through your entity.

Thank you in advance for consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

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