



December 21, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Eric Reid
Senior Labor and Employee Relations Program Manager
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20528-0525

RE: Additional Questions Following DHS's COVID-19 Vaccination Working Group Brief and Moderna EUA

Dear Mr. Reid:

We appreciate DHS's briefing on the contours of DHS's plan to vaccinate DHS employees for COVID-19. Since many of the vaccination details have been left to the DHS components and after reviewing the recently released information on the FDA's grant of Emergency Use Authority for the Moderna vaccine, we have additional questions for DHS:

1. Who or what "team" is handling the vaccine program at CBP?
2. If DHS is determining the order in which components will get the vaccine, where is CBP in that hierarchy? Within CBP, who will determine the order that sub-components, *e.g.*, Office of Field Operations, will get the vaccine?
3. Does CBP have any additional screening criteria for vaccine eligibility, or a hierarchy of positions that will have priority for receiving the vaccine?
4. Assuming CBP is following the DHS priority schedule, we see that Phase 1a is defined as mission critical employees that perform healthcare work, *i.e.*, EMTs and Paramedics. Every front line CBP OFO first responder could perform healthcare work. For example, CBPOs are expected to render medical assistance when they are the first on the scene of a medical emergency. Given that fact, will CBP first responders be included in Phase 1a as healthcare workers?
5. Phase 1b is defined as "mission critical employees with high risk of exposure". How is "mission critical" defined? Every CBP OFO CBPO and Agriculture Specialist should fall under this definition, if not 1a, but please confirm.

6. Is DHS or CBP providing any input to the VA on who should get the vaccine and in what order, or just leaving that decision up to the VA? Who or what "team" at DHS/CBP is responsible for managing the vaccine partnership with the VA?
7. Will DHS/CBP be ensuring the vaccine is administered to all essential front-line workers who want to get it?
8. We understand that initial selection of the four VA locations to administer the vaccine was based on storage capabilities for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, but what is the plan and timetable for administering vaccines at other locations now that the Moderna vaccine has been approved?
9. In considering an employees' initial ability to receive the vaccine based on location, are there any limits on how far employees may travel to be vaccinated at one of the four VA locations, and will associated travel expenses be compensated in accordance with the applicable travel regulations?
10. In the alternative or in the meantime, are employees expected to seek the vaccine through state or other local authorities? If left to the states, counties, or localities, what is CBP doing to ensure federal employees are placed into the appropriate priority groups by the states/counties/localities and are up front as Priority 1 first responders?
11. Can you provide ballpark time frames for administration of the vaccine? I understand that may be very difficult at this time, but any projection would be useful.

Finally, what can NTEU do to assist CBP with all of this? NTEU is aware that this is a large effort but since most frontline CBP employees that NTEU represents must report to work and interact with the public daily, it is critical that they have the opportunity to be vaccinated as soon as humanly possible.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please direct your responses and any questions or concerns to Ryan Soon, Assistant Counsel for Negotiations, via email at ryan.soon@nteu.org.

Sincerely,



Anthony M. Reardon
National President

cc: Jim Bailey, NTEU National Executive Vice President
Frank Barczykowski, NTEU Deputy Director of Negotiations
Ryan Soon, NTEU Assistant Counsel for Negotiations