



December 22, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Mark A. Morgan  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf and Acting Commissioner Morgan:

As you know, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees in the Office of Field Operations (OFO) have faithfully and selflessly carried out their critical responsibilities of protecting our country since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic almost a year ago. Of course, diligent performance of these responsibilities means a much higher risk of exposure to the virus and, sadly, we have seen many of these employees come down with COVID-19 and some have lost their lives. The families of those employees who have died will never be the same. Neither will their colleagues.

Since you both play important roles in this entire process, I write to both of you today seeking your assurances that these employees are a priority for receiving vaccines against the coronavirus. NTEU received the briefing from DHS on its emerging vaccination plan and we have sent a number of follow-up questions (see attached letter). Among the key questions that NTEU and our members have are:

- What office in CBP is handling the vaccination program?
- Given the first-responder responsibilities of many OFO frontline employees, like CBPOs and Agriculture Specialists, who must render immediate medical aid when necessary, where do CBP OFO employees who daily interact with the public fall within DHS on the priority list — Category 1a or 1b?

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- How does CBP plan to deliver vaccines to OFO employees outside the areas of the four VA hospitals that DHS is partnering with, given the approval of the Moderna vaccine which is capable of effective delivery to more remote locations?
- Finally, what is the time frame within which frontline OFO employees may anticipate being offered the vaccine? Even a ballpark estimate, in terms of months, would be welcome.

Employees are understandably anxious to have the vaccine made available to them as quickly as possible. It is their top concern at this time. And, NTEU is prepared to assist in any way we can. I have already spoken with the incoming administration's CBP transition team on the importance of delivering vaccines to the frontline employees at OFO. Additionally, I have raised the issue directly with President-elect Biden's nominee for DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this critically important vaccine issue with both of you as well.

I look forward to your prompt reply and ongoing efforts. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Anthony M. Reardon  
National President

Enclosure