



December 23, 2020

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
Post Office Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909-7513

Dear Governor Whitmer:

I am writing to formally request that employees of the United States Postal Service (Postal Service) be afforded the opportunity to receive COVID-19 vaccinations during the early stages of the national rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination effort by the federal government. While we would certainly not seek higher prioritization than those segments of the population that are at a higher health risk or who are "first responders" and health care providers that directly treat those who have been impacted by COVID-19, we do request appropriate prioritization for our employees based on our role and established designation as an essential service provider.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout America's communities and during all of calendar year 2020, the women and men of the Postal Service delivered. Our 644,000 employees demonstrated unwavering dedication and constant commitment to our mission of service to the American public and ensured that households and businesses throughout the country received the medicines, health supplies, benefit checks, financial statements, and other important correspondence and sustaining goods they depend upon—and we continue to provide critical mail service to the American public.

Amid the recent resurgence of COVID-19 throughout the nation, the Postal Service continues to experience high rates of absenteeism, particularly in areas of the country that have experienced increases in the number of cases. The nature of our operations is such that spikes in COVID-19 incidence in any locality puts our employees in those localities at greater risk and has the potential to impact the services we provide. To date, we have lost 119 of our colleagues to COVID-19 and more than 14,000 employees have contracted COVID-19 nationwide.

The Postal Service continues to take all appropriate measures to protect the health and safety of our customers, and of our employees while they are performing their critical jobs in a manner consistent with the advice of medical and public health professionals. To achieve this goal, we work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health officials to ensure that we are fully informed about their latest guidance on appropriate workplace practices and so we can adjust our policies accordingly. We regularly reinforce workplace behaviors to ensure that contact amongst our employees and with members of the public reflect the best guidance regarding healthy interactions, social distancing, and risk minimization.

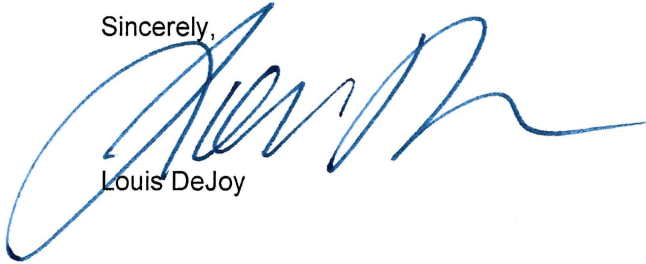
Our employees live, work, and serve in every community in the United States, and we remain highly focused on our statutory mission of binding our nation together and providing the American people with prompt, reliable, and universal postal delivery services—delivering to more than 165 million delivery points nationwide six to seven days a week. The vital role we play to help sustain the nation is never more evident than during this pandemic.

The Postal Service's role as a provider of essential government services under federal law is clear. We are mandated by statute to operate "as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by an Act of Congress, and supported by the people." We are additionally a critical extension of infrastructure within underserved rural communities, which make up over 48 million residential and business delivery points.

As we seek to protect our employees and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure continuity of service to the American public, we will continue to coordinate any planning necessary to enable appropriate prioritization in the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. As such, we request that Postal Service be appropriately prioritized in your planning for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to the providers of essential services.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Louis DeJoy", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Louis DeJoy