



December 28, 2020

Governor Kate Brown  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Vaccine Considerations for Oregon's Hospitality Workforce**

Dear Governor Brown,

We want to thank you for your ongoing acknowledgment in your press conferences referencing the widespread, catastrophic impact the pandemic has had on Oregon's hospitality workforce and the businesses they bring to life. We continue to move through trying times as disproportionate pandemic impacts ravage every corner of our industry.

On behalf of the Association and its members throughout the state, thank you for your leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am writing to formally request priority access to COVID-19 vaccines for our frontline workforce once the needs of healthcare workers, first responders, teachers, and Oregon's at-risk populations are met.

As you know, the hospitality industry has been operating under emergency safety measures, based on federal and state guidance, with the understanding that essential critical infrastructure workers must conduct their work with great care. These measures follow tailored best practices to their facilities to prevent the exposure and transmission of COVID-19. The industry has carefully followed the evolving frontline worker guidelines published by the CDC, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Food and Drug Administration and the Oregon Health Authority.

Our workforce has remained on the front lines of the response to the pandemic by continuing operations and ensuring Oregonians have access to safe food and shelter. Our industry is proud to fulfill this essential responsibility, but we must protect our selfless workers who continue to risk their personal safety to feed and shelter others.

Restaurant and foodservice workers are important components of the food supply chain and, thus, an integral part of the state's critical infrastructure segment. In certain areas of our state where food deserts exist and it is difficult for people to access affordable, nutritious food, restaurants are often the only place for residents to find healthy meals for their families. Furthermore, lodging operations continue to play a pivotal role in providing shelter for vulnerable populations, first responders, and other emergency personnel.

We are here to serve, and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Brandt", written in a cursive style.

Jason Brandt  
President & CEO  
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association