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DARRIN JORDAN  
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MEMORANDUM:  
COVID 19 VACCINATIONS AND ATTORNEYS

As you know, North Carolina has started a tiered roll-out for COVID-19 vaccinations. We have received lots of questions from attorneys who actively practice in courthouses about where they fall in line with the roll-out. IDS believes that these attorneys are in "Group 3," the next group slated to receive the vaccinations.

We have reached this conclusion based on the letter by North Carolina Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Dr. Mandy Cohen, to Chief Justice Paul Newby, on January 15, 2021 (see below). Dr Cohen has revised NC's "Group" priorities to reflect new national guidance from the CDC, and her letter reflects the change applicable to some attorneys specifically those who must appear in court. Attorneys within the category of "Government-Based Operations and Essential Functions," including workers who support the operations of the judicial system, would now fall into North Carolina's "Group 3." These vaccine-eligible workers' work-related duties "require them to be on-site and involve being in close proximity to the public or to coworkers."

North Carolina is presently vaccinating [Groups 1 and 2](#). Click the link for the [infographic](#) with the revised Groups. Note that each county, and each provider within a county, may be in a different Group because of the volume of vaccine they receive and their expected flow of recipients

For all groups, you need to make an appointment for a vaccination in advance. Use the [Find Your Spot](#) site to find all of your county and provider options so that you are ready when Group 3 is open.

If you try to register for vaccination as a Group 3 worker and are denied or face pushback, IDS will be happy to provide you with documentation of our interpretation of how you are covered in this group. Please let us know if we can assist in this regard.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH  
SECRETARY

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Paul Newby  
Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of North Carolina  
PO Box 1841  
Raleigh, NC 27602

Dear Chief Justice Newby:

Thank you for your letter regarding North Carolina's COVID-19 Vaccine planning, and where courthouse personnel fit within the prioritization framework.

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout and prioritization is evolving at the federal and therefore state level. On Tuesday, the US HHS and Operation Warp Speed directed states to go to the 65 years and older population as the next group to receive vaccine and NC will follow this recommendation with an announcement tomorrow. Other groups will move down in the prioritization framework to allow for providers to vaccinate those in Groups 1 and 2 who are at higher risk for severe illness and death.

Yesterday, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced a revised [Vaccine Prioritization Framework](#) to reflect this direction as well as the December 22 meeting of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP). As you mention in your letter, ACIP refers to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security which developed a list of categories of essential critical infrastructure workers who are serving in a frontline role that likely puts them at highest risk for work-related exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because their work-related duties require them to be on-site and involve being in close proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers.

As such, the revised vaccine prioritization for NC will reflect the 8 recommended CISA categories, including Community or Government-Based Operations and Essential Functions, which would include workers supporting the operations of the judicial system in Group 3. Within this category, eligible frontline workers would be those whose work-related duties must be performed onsite and involve being close to members of the public or other co-workers. Note that the timing of when NC moves into subsequent Groups, will depend on the current priority population and vaccine supply.

In the meantime, I ask that you take all steps necessary to allow judicial system employees to continue working remotely to the greatest extent possible to reduce the risk of viral transmission. Should some employees be required to work onsite, please ensure they are following the recommended protocols to promote face coverings, social distancing and frequent hand washing.

Please let me or Walker Wilson, Assistant Secretary for Policy, know if we at DHHS can be helpful to you and your staff as you transition into new roles. In the meantime, I encourage you to have your staff review the [NC Vaccine Resources website](#) which includes many resources on NC's Vaccine Plan and the current prioritization framework, which is updated regularly.

Sincerely,

Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH  
Secretary

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