

March 4, 2021

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Re: Prioritizing Frontline Transit Workers for Vaccination

Dear Bay Area Public Health Officers:

Last week, San Francisco announced that frontline city workers, including SFMTA transit workers, will be prioritized for vaccination. We request that each of you make frontline transit workers who live or work in your counties a priority for vaccination, as well.

Our frontline transit workers have borne a disproportionate share of deaths from the pandemic. Nationally, over 200 union transit workers at the Amalgamated Transit Union and the Transport Workers Union lost their lives to COVID last year. Here in California, as reported in the [press](#), a recent [UCSF study](#) has reached the preliminary conclusion that, following food and

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agriculture workers, workers in transportation and logistics have been hardest hit by “excess mortality” during the past year.

Frontline transit workers play a unique role among essential workers, ensuring that frontline healthcare, childcare, elder care, grocery and pharmacy workers can get to or from their workplaces. In fact, nearly a third of current transit riders are essential frontline workers.

The State’s current guidance already prioritizes “workers involved in child and/or student care, including school bus drivers.” Many of our Bay Area transit agencies carry children to school, and as schools reopen, it will be especially important that they have been vaccinated.

Thank you for your work in helping keep us safe at this time in which our frontline transit workers continue to expose themselves to great risk in order to serve our communities.

Sincerely,

Liz Ortega-Toro, Executive Director
Alameda Labor Council

Jean Cohen, Interim Executive Officer
South Bay Labor Council

Joshua Anijar, Executive Director
Contra Costa Labor Council

Julie Lind Rupp, Executive Secretary-Treasurer
San Mateo Labor Council

Jack Buckhorn, Executive Director
North Bay Labor Council

Kimberly Tavaglione, Executive Director
San Francisco Labor Council

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Robert Coleman, President/Business Manager
Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 192

John Courtney, President/Business Manager
Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 265

Shane Weinstein, President/Business Manager
Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1575

Miguel Navarro, Jr., President/Business Manager
Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1574

Roger Marenco, President
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Oakland Education Association

Mark Cordes, Executive Director
San Francisco Transit Riders

Derek Sagehorn, Organizer
East Bay Transit Riders Union

Hon. Charles Stone
Mayor of Belmont and SamTrans Chair of the Board

Hon. Jovanka Beckles
AC Transit Board Member, Ward 1

Hon. Mark Williams
AC Transit Board Member, Ward 4

Pastor Jethroe Moore II, President
San Jose/Silicon Valley NAACP

Derecka Mehrens, Executive Director
Working Partnerships USA

Eduardo Gonzalez
Youth Leadership Institute, San Mateo County

Daveed Mandell
California Council of the Blind, Bayview and San Francisco chapters

Monica Mallon
Transit Lead, SV Youth Climate Action

Bonnie Lockhart and Nathan Swedlow, transit organizers
Democratic Socialists of America, East Bay Chapter

Bob Allen, Director of Policy and Advocacy Campaigns
Urban Habitat

Darnell Grisby, Executive Director
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Adina Levin, Executive Director
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Dave Campbell
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Richard Marcantonio, Managing Attorney
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