



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2021

CONTACT

Virginia Drake
Public Affairs and Communications Director
California Transit Association
M: (914) 924-0120
Email: virginia@caltransit.org

****STATEMENT****

**California Transit Association Urges Governor Gavin Newsom to
Reprioritize Transit Frontline Workers In Vaccine Rollout After
State Announces Shift with New Plan**

Sacramento – Yesterday (June 25), Governor Gavin Newsom announced a change in direction to the state’s COVID-19 vaccine distribution strategy. The state’s new rollout plan will shift from a sector-based to age-based model following the vaccination of top tier priority groups, which are individuals age 65+ and essential workers in health care, emergency services, food and agriculture, and education. The new rollout plan would eliminate vaccine prioritization for transit frontline workers. The California Transit Association [submitted a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom](#) urging him to again prioritize transit frontline workers in the state’s new rollout plan.

“We fully support a vaccine rollout that will enable more people to get vaccinated quickly. However, transit frontline workers need to be prioritized in this new plan,” said Michael Pimentel, Executive Director of California Transit Association. “They were deemed essential workers at the start of the pandemic. Throughout this health and economic crisis, dedicated transit heroes have put themselves at risk to transport fellow essential frontline workers to their jobs in health care, education, food service and hospitality. Public transportation has not only kept the economy going, it’s also filling important gaps in the state and local emergency services. Additionally, our transportation workers play a critical role in facilitating equitable access to the vaccine. Hope is on the horizon, we need to protect those moving us toward it.”

###