



January 8, 2021

M. Norman Oliver, MD
Director
Virginia Department of Health
P. O. Box 2448
Richmond, VA 23218-2448

Danny TK Avula, MD
Director
Richmond City & Henrico County Health
Departments
400 E. Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Drs. Oliver and Avula:

Since the beginning of the pandemic, credit unions and banks throughout the Commonwealth have been monitoring closely and following directives and recommendations from Governor Northam, the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC to ensure that the financial industry maintains the highest level of safety for our respective employees and the millions of members and customers we serve every day. We greatly appreciate the guidance and support we have received and are pleased to report that our financial institutions have remained open and operational throughout the pandemic. We are proud of our pool of dedicated employees who have stepped up to this challenge, and in some cases put themselves at risk to ensure Virginians can continue to access their accounts as needed.

We are aware that the Commonwealth has adopted the recommendations of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for phased vaccinations and that financial services are placed in Phase 1C, behind those individuals and entities in Phase 1B, and that more information will be forthcoming about when our employees will be eligible to receive vaccinations.

We write to emphasize that frontline employees who come into contact with members and customers and, such as tellers and loan officers, be regarded as "essential" workers for top priority for the vaccinations within the Phase 1C sequence.

We believe these frontline workers face the highest risk of infection, pose the greatest risk of spreading the virus if infected, and are absolutely essential, especially in communities where residents may not have access to electronic banking tools.

Again, we deeply appreciate your and the Governor's efforts on behalf of the Commonwealth at this challenging time. If the financial industry can do anything else to promote public health, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce T. Whitehurst".

Bruce T. Whitehurst
CEO, Virginia Bankers Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard D. Pillow".

Richard D. Pillow
CEO, Virginia Credit Union League