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## National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions

January 4, 2021

Dr. José R. Romero, MD, FAAP Chair Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Rd, NE Atlanta, GA 30333

## **RE: Credit Union Employees as Essential Workers**

Dear Chair Romero:

On behalf of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU), I am writing to you to express support for credit union employees as "essential" workers under Phase 1C of the vaccination distribution plan. NAFCU advocates for all federally-insured not-for-profit credit unions that, in turn, serve over 123 million consumers with personal and small business financial service products. NAFCU appreciates the recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices that workers in the finance industry be included as "essential" workers for Phase 1C of the vaccine distribution, following healthcare workers, long-term care facilities, and older Americans. Credit union employees should be prioritized for vaccinations because during this unprecedented public health crisis, credit unions across the country worked proactively to protect the health and safety of their staff and members and assist those members impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

From the start of the pandemic, many credit unions took steps to help minimize person-to-person interaction, such as limiting staff travel, encouraging staff to telework as much as reasonably possible, and reminding members of online and mobile banking resources as well as drive through windows, if available. The health and safety of credit union staff and members remains the industry's top priority as the COVID-19 pandemic endures. We appreciate the designation of workers in the finance industry as "essential" under Phase 1C and want to ensure that all credit union employees are able to receive a vaccine as soon as possible so they may continue to protect the health and financial well-being of their members and communities.

If you have any questions or if I may be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

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B. Dan Berger