



12/4/2020

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of the physical therapy profession in Michigan and the physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education programs in the State of Michigan, I write to ask that ***you please include student physical therapists and student physical therapist assistants in the Phase 1 vaccination program.***

Based on the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations (October 29, 2020), Phase 1 distribution (potentially limited doses) includes:

- Phase 1-A
  - Paid and ***unpaid*** persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home.
- Phase 1-B
  - Other essential workers
  - People at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness, including people 65 years of age and older

Student physical therapists and student physical therapist assistants meet the criteria of “unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings” and as direct line healthcare providers in training, have daily face to face contact with patients.

It is critical for the protection of the public and all healthcare workers that these students receive COVID-19 vaccinations promptly. It is also critical for helping maintain the continuity of their clinical education so that Michigan’s workforce does not experience provider shortages associated with delays in graduation of providers entering the field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Shoemaker".

Michael J. Shoemaker, PT, DPT, PhD  
President  
APTA Michigan