



National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators
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To Whom It May Concern:

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators represents spoken and sign language interpreters throughout the United States. We are writing to urge all administrators who employ and contract with interpreters, and public health officials, to explicitly include on-site court interpreters among the listed groups of personnel for Phase 1 vaccinations.

Court interpreters perform essential work which often requires close proximity to Limited English Proficient (LEP) litigants, their lawyers and many others in judicial and extrajudicial settings. What's more, it can be argued that the effective assistance of counsel is placed in jeopardy without the interpreter's close proximity to lawyers and their clients in courtrooms, jail holding facilities, and other settings, especially when the current demand for remote access greatly exceeds current capabilities in many locations.

As you are aware, the Bureau of the Census indicates that more than 65 million American citizens and residents speak a language other than English at home, and more than 13 million are Limited English Proficient, speaking minimal English or none at all. Our country's anti-discrimination laws require LEP individuals be provided competent language access services when in court and in any other federally-funded organizations.

If you or your staff should have further questions, they may be directed to the Board of Directors at board_of_directors@najit.org

Sincerely,

NAJIT Advocacy Committee

The NAJIT Board of Directors