



Subject: Teton and Park County Vaccination Supply

2/4/2021

Dear Stephanie Pyle, Wyoming Department of Health,

On behalf of business communities in Teton and Park Counties we are writing to request a second look at the vaccination distribution plans for NW Wyoming. Given our understanding of the current situation, we are very concerned we will fall extremely short of our needs in May when we experience a significant increase in summer employee residents that will all require vaccination to ensure a safe and successful peak visitor season. We respectfully and urgently make a request for increased vaccination supply based on the need to safely prepare our workforce.

At this time, the tourism economy in this region is planning a more “normal” recruitment strategy to fulfil the needs of business and based on the most recent Teton County Annual Indicator Report, this is approximately 12,000 seasonal employees for Teton and 2500 for Park County. As a business community we are committed to sharing as much real time data, to get the best number of needed doses.

Individual businesses hire 1000’s of seasonal workers such as Grand Teton Lodge Company, Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Delaware North and Forever Resorts in addition to the hundreds of smaller businesses in Cody and Jackson that hire smaller numbers of critical service workers, all of whom will fall in the CDC’s Tier 1b or or 1c priority groups.

Summer tourism in Teton and Park Counties generate over 50% of the Statewide Lodging Tax collections and contribute similar amounts to Sales and Use Tax generated from tourists. To feel confident delivering a high-quality visitor experience and keeping both guests and employees safe, we need to know that sufficient vaccines will be available for these workers entering our communities.

This will be a very demanding summer given the forecasted return to high visitation levels, along with the unknowns of the virus and our ability to support the operations of sustainable businesses. We have spoken with our local public health departments. They understand and support this request and look forward to working with the business community on a plan to administer vaccines to our vital seasonal workers.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Olson  
President/CEO  
Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce

Tina Hoebelheinrich  
Executive Director  
Cody Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Alex Klein, Vail Resorts, Grand Teton Lodge Company

Mike Keller, Xanterra, Yellowstone Park Lodges

Bill Butts, Forever Resorts, Signal Mountain Lodge

Chip Jenkins, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park

Cam Sholly, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Jodie Pond, Teton County Public Health Director

Renny Mackay, Policy Director, Governor Mark Gordon

Senator Mike Gierau, Senate District 17