

1 [Urging the Prioritization of People with Underlying Health Conditions and Disabilities in
2 Vaccine Distribution]

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3 **Resolution Urging the State of California and San Francisco Department of Public**
4 **Health to Prioritize People with Underlying Health Conditions and Disabilities in COVID-**
5 **19 Vaccine Distribution Guidelines in Partnership with the California Department of**
6 **Developmental Services and In-Home Supportive Services Programs**

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8 WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies a non-
9 exhaustive list of underlying medical conditions including cancer, chronic kidney disease,
10 pulmonary disease, developmental disabilities, obesity, sickle cell disease, and more as
11 leading to increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 for adults at any age, including
12 hospitalizations, admission to the ICU, intubation or mechanical ventilation, and death; and

13 WHEREAS, People with underlying medical conditions overall were found to be more
14 than three times more likely than others to be hospitalized from COVID-19, those with
15 disabilities were two or three times more likely to die from COVID-19, and the odds of dying
16 from COVID-19 increase with each additional underlying medical condition for a patient of any
17 age; and

18 WHEREAS, People with disabilities who rely upon in-home supports such as medical
19 care, help with household chores, and more, and who live in individual or congregate settings
20 in the community cannot fully self-quarantine and therefore are at greater risk of contracting
21 COVID-19; and

22 WHEREAS, People with disabilities may be unable to wear masks or other Personal
23 Protective Equipment which puts them at greater risk of contracting COVID-19; and

24 WHEREAS, People with underlying medical conditions, higher weight people, and
25 people with disabilities are delaying vital medical care and services during the pandemic due

1 to self-quarantine and the risk of contracting COVID-19, and are experiencing devastating
2 effects on their health, wellness, and functioning; and

3 WHEREAS, The distribution of vaccines is an issue of equity as Black and Brown
4 communities face disproportionately higher prevalence of underlying health conditions and
5 comorbidities as a result of systemic racism in our health systems and lack of adequate
6 access to quality care and nutrition; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a high correlation between poverty and disability which
8 disproportionately increases the risk of serious health complications from COVID-19 for
9 people living in poverty and puts many people with underlying health conditions in high-risk
10 environments including frontline workplaces and congregate living spaces; and

11 WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health has stated equity is one of the
12 overarching principles of California’s plan for the distribution and administration of the COVID-
13 19 vaccine and allocation decisions are data driven with an emphasis on equity and on
14 protecting vulnerable populations; and

15 WHEREAS, Original California State vaccine guidelines prioritized people aged 16-49
16 years of age who have an underlying health condition or disability which increases their risk of
17 severe COVID-19 in Phase 1C and CDC guidelines still recommend the prioritization of
18 people aged 16-64 years with underlying medical conditions; and

19 WHEREAS, The new California State vaccine guidelines provides access for people
20 aged 16-49 who have a specific disability or underlying health condition on a short and
21 exhaustive list beginning on March 15, 2021; and

22 WHEREAS, Other States including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New
23 Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Texas, Washington and New York have adopted more
24 expansive vaccine rollout guidelines to include prioritization for those with underlying medical
25 conditions and disabilities; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California Department
2 of Public Health, California Governor's Vaccine Task Force and the COVID-19 Vaccine Task
3 Force Working Group to prioritize individuals who are at high risk of complications from
4 COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions and disabilities in the vaccine distribution
5 guideline and move the March 15, 2021 start date earlier as vaccine supplies allow; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the State to
7 develop and implement guidance for how to prioritize and administer the COVID-19 vaccine to
8 these vulnerable populations in partnership with the California Department of Developmental
9 Services Regional Centers and In-Home Supportive Services programs; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San
11 Francisco Department of Public Health to expeditiously administer COVID-19 vaccines to
12 people with medical vulnerabilities as soon as we can and as broadly as we can under State
13 guidelines; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
15 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, Director
16 of the California Department of Public Health and State Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás J.
17 Aragón, and Director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health Dr. Grant Colfax.

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