



DG/COAI/2021/053

March 15, 2021

**Shri Anshu Prakash, IAS,
Secretary,**

Department of Telecommunications,
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110001

Subject: Covid Vaccination for Telecom Warriors

Dear Sir,

1. As you are aware when the pandemic hit us last year, telecom operations once again proved to be a critical part of the country's Information Infrastructure. During the outbreak and spread of Covid-19 infection in the country, telecom industry ensured the availability and continuity of telecom operations throughout the country.
2. When the entire country was under a lockdown, the telecom field force worked relentlessly to ensure uninterrupted service access for all. They demonstrated to be the 'Telecom Warriors' to keep us connected during isolation and helped to cater to increased demand and enabled provision of seamless services. Due to increased demand owing to work from home, online education, digital transactions, etc., telcos continued network expansion and the frontline workforce of telecom providers continued to provide services on a regular basis despite grave risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Even today, the telecom warriors continue to work persistently. It would be impossible for people to function – conduct everyday business, bank, learn, utilize telehealth services and simply communicate, all while minimizing exposure if the frontline workers had not been at the forefront.
4. Hence, it is essential that they are categorised under the frontline workers category so that they are given priority for getting the COVID-19 prevention vaccine.
5. We thus request you to kindly categorize telecom warriors as frontline workers and take up the issue with the Ministry of Health to get them in the priority list for getting the vaccination.

We hope our submission will merit your consideration and the issue will be treated on priority.

Regards,

**Lt. Gen Dr. SP Kochhar
Director General**

Email id: dg@coai.in

Mobile No.: +91 9871554400