



The Voice of the Library Community

## New York Library Association

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May 3, 2021

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dr. Howard Zucker  
Commissioner, New York State Department of Health  
Corning Tower Building  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237

Nearly fourteen months after the first case of the coronavirus was identified in New York, our state is finally ready to reopen. A cumulative effort of state and federal guidance, the responsible actions of our residents and the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccination - “normalcy” is on the horizon.

Earlier today, it was announced that the State will ease restrictions for businesses and entities to operate at 100%; the State will re-open! While this notion is exciting, it also came with a caveat, more can and should be done to educate those around the risks of the mutations of the coronavirus and the benefits of receiving one of the three approved vaccinations.

As known sources of trustworthy information and an access point for factual content, New York’s libraries can assist with this effort. If provided with public service announcement kits, graphics and other media content, libraries in every corner of the state have the potential to reach residents who may be reluctant or fearful of the vaccination.

We believe in our communities and want to see each resident thrive. By allowing public libraries to assist in this final step of a historical public-health emergency, we can ensure a better New York tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Johannesen".

Jeremy Johannesen  
Executive Director  
New York Library Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Briana McNamee".

Briana McNamee  
Director of Government Relations & Advocacy  
New York Library Association