



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084
518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX
info@nyla.org
www.nyla.org

February 24, 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

The enclosed serves as a follow-up to the New York Library Association's initial request letter sent on January 12.

In January, Phase 1b was expanded to include individuals 65 and older, educators (P-12 staff & in-person college instructors), and essential retail employees. Unfortunately, the titles of those included under "educator" was not exhaustive and has led to inconsistent access to vaccination within the library community.

Libraries have amended their operations and expanded their services during the pandemic to ensure that patrons have the resources they need. These innovative services would not be available without our state's front-line library workers.

Earlier this month, the New York Library Association coordinated an online petition allowing individuals to vocalize their support for library workers to be explicitly included within Phase 1b. To date, 2,883 people have signed the petition. A copy of the petition as well as a complete list of the signers is attached.

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 "Claudia Depkin".

Claudia Depkin
President
New York Library Association



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084
518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX
info@nyla.org
www.nyla.org

Libraries are critical infrastructure and cannot operate without library workers who interact directly with the public. With the pandemic disproportionately impacting New York's marginalized communities, expedited eligibility for vaccination for library workers will allow libraries to resume or expand critical services that New Yorkers desperately need during the current public health emergency.

While we understand the complexity of setting and implementing priorities, especially given the limited supply of vaccinations being sent to our state from the federal government, we know that libraries are key to our state's recovery.

By including library workers to Phase 1B, they can return to providing the services and programs to their patrons, at expanded capacity, without fear of exposure or unintended spread of the coronavirus.

(Signatories attached.)