



January 12, 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

On behalf of our 6,000 members, the New York Library Association would like to thank you for your efforts to support New York during these uncertain and unfair times. Our community, like so many, could have never imagined what our lives would look like today when we first learned of the coronavirus. Fortunately, we have reached the day we all longed for, vaccination distribution in New York.

With a limited supply of vaccinations being sent to our state from the federal government, we understand the priority of reaching health care workers and their patients. These individuals have a heightened risk of exposure and must be protected for the betterment of our state.

Recently, Phase 1b was expanded to include individuals 65 and older, educators (P-12 staff & in-person college instructors), and essential retail employees (grocery). While this is not an expansive list, NYLA believes a devoted population of citizens has been missed. We ask that you expand 1b eligibility to include front-line library workers. These staff have amended their operations and expanded the services in their communities during the pandemic to ensure patrons have the resources they need.

As you well know, the pandemic has disproportionately impacted New York's marginalized communities. This same population relies on library for access to information and our resources. Expedited eligibility for vaccination for library workers will allow libraries to resume in their critical function.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Johannesen
Executive Director
New York Library Association



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

Cc:

Senator Sean Ryan
Senator Daphne Jordan
Assemblymember Kimberly Jean-Pierre
Assemblymember Josh Jensen