

JEREMY A. COONEY
SENATOR, 56TH DISTRICT

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



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March 18, 2021

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
NYS Capitol
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We, the undersigned, urge you to provide updated guidelines allowing pharmacists to vaccinate *all* DOH-eligible New Yorkers.

According to your March 9, 2021, announcement, pharmacists are restricted to vaccinating those who are over the age of 60 or those who are teachers. Removing this limitation will allow the State to streamline its existing vaccination program, provide logical uniformity to individuals navigating vaccine access, and increase the rate at which we are able to safely vaccinate vulnerable populations.

This request aligns with the Centers for Disease Control's Federal Retail Pharmacy Program. The program allows states to use their discretion in selecting populations who are eligible for vaccination through this program. **New York needs more providers to administer the COVID-19 vaccine as eligibility expands and pharmaceutical supply increases.** We must prioritize administering these vaccines to people as quickly as possible due to their short shelf-lives. Allowing pharmacists to vaccinate all eligible individuals accomplishes these goals while also expanding access to at-risk populations.

We respectfully request DOH update these guidelines, allowing pharmacists to vaccinate any eligible New Yorker.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeremy A. Cooney in blue ink.

Senator Jeremy Cooney
56th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Joseph P. Addabbo Jr. in blue ink.

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.
15th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Jamaal T. Bailey in blue ink.

Jamaal T. Bailey
36th Senate District

Brian A. Benjamin

Brian A. Benjamin
50th Senate District

Alessandra Biaggi
34th Senate District

Neil D. Breslin

Neil D. Breslin
44th Senate District

Jabari Brisport
25th Senate District

John E. Brooks
8th Senate District

Samra G. Brouk
55th Senate District

Leroy Comrie
14th Senate District

James Gaughran
5th Senate District

Michael Gianaris
12th Senate District

Andrew Gounardes
22nd Senate District

Pete Harckham
40th Senate District

Michelle Hinchey
46th Senate District

Brad Hoylman
27th Senate District

Robert Jackson
31st Senate District

Anna M. Kaplan
7th Senate District

Brian Kavanagh
26th Senate District

Timothy M. Kennedy
63rd Senate District

Liz Krueger
28th Senate District

John C. Liu
11th Senate District

John W. Mannion
50th Senate District

Rachel May
53rd Senate District



Shelley B. Mayer
37th Senate District

Zellnor Myrie
20th Senate District



Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senate District



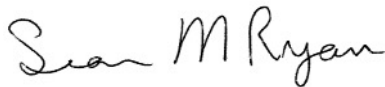
Jessica Ramos
13th Senate District



Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
38th Senate District



Gustavo Rivera
33rd Senate District



Sean M. Ryan
60th Senate District



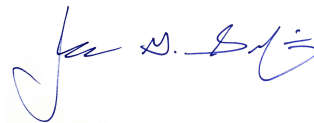
Julia Salazar
18th Senate District



James Sanders Jr.
10th Senate District



Diane J. Savino
23rd Senate District



James Skoufis
39th Senate District



Toby Ann Stavisky
16th Senate District



Kevin Thomas
6th Senate District

cc: Dr. Howard A. Zucker, Commissioner, Department of Health