

December 9, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Vaccine Distribution and Implementation Task Force

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The undersigned represent a coalition of ANA-NY, the professional association representing Registered Nurses across New York State; the New York State Council of Deans, which includes Deans and Chairs for all bachelor and higher degree nursing education programs; and the Council for Associate Degree Nursing of NYS, which includes the chairs of all two-year nursing programs in New York State, and we are writing with an offer of help to the Vaccine Distribution and Implementation Task Force. On behalf of the nursing faculty and thousands of nursing students in close to 200 nursing programs across the State, we wanted to bring to the Task Force's attention that nursing students, supervised by faculty, can assist in the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

We applaud your leadership in managing the pandemic and recognizing that the distribution of the proposed vaccine to New Yorkers may be the most important public health project in this century. The need for proper and prompt administration will challenge New York's already overtaxed healthcare systems. Thousands of clinical nursing students in New York State have the skills and training to administer the vaccination. Many programs already use these students to staff flu shot clinics on their campuses and in the community. RN nursing students are covered in the New York State Practice Act, which allows students to perform certain skills when they are supervised by nursing faculty. NY Education Law §6908. We believe that using clinical nursing students will increase the workforce to administer vaccines, while leaving Registered Nurses to their life-saving work in hospitals.

As noted above, there are close to 200 nursing programs, in all corners of the state. Students and faculty from our schools can provide the additional workforce to quickly meet the demands for widespread vaccinations in many of the rural and underserved areas which are suffering the most and where the vaccination challenges will be the most pronounced.

We stand ready to assist state and county public health officials to mobilize these nursing students to help rapidly vaccinate New Yorkers to contain this deadly virus. As nurse educators, we are committed to working with all public health providers to achieve the goal of vaccination for all New Yorkers.

We are looking forward to your response and information about how we can work together. Please contact Dr. Marilyn L. Dollinger at (585) 415-5497 or mdollinger@sjfc.edu for questions and planning. Thank you.

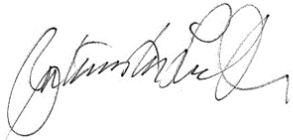
Sincerely,



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Professor, Associate Dean Wegmans School of Nursing, St John Fisher College



Dr. Mario Ortiz
President, NYS Council of Deans
Professor, Dean, Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Binghamton University SUNY



Dr. Patricia Losito
President, Council for Associate Degree Nursing in NYS
Executive Dean of Nursing, Erie Community College

CC: Dr. Howard A. Zucker, Commissioner, NYSDOH
Suzanne Sullivan, Executive Secretary, Board of Nursing, New York State Education Department
Sarah Ravenhall, Executive Director, New York State Association of County Health Officials