

CHAIR OF THE SENATE
MINORITY CONFERENCE

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



COMMITTEES
ELECTIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
FINANCE
RULES
MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON RURAL
RESOURCES

SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE
48TH DISTRICT
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES

May 12, 2021

Hon. Howard Zucker, M.D., Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Dr. Zucker:

On May 10th, Governor Cuomo announced that non-New Yorkers who are tourists are now eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. We are writing to you in an effort to clarify that this new expansion of vaccine eligibility will also include commercial truckers entering New York from our northern boundary with Canada and, if not, to urge your consideration to immediately expand eligibility to this essential group.

New York has four of the most heavily trafficked border crossings between the two countries—Buffalo-Niagara Falls, Champlain-Rouses Point, Massena and the Thousand Islands Bridge in Alexandria Bay, all major truck portals—but even in smaller communities, cross-border trucks provide a smooth and seamless supply line for important goods and products for consumers, manufacturers and vital businesses, and support strong jobs.

As with vaccination of tourists, expanding eligibility to Canadian truckers will not only help protect the health and safety of these travelers and any New Yorkers with whom they may come in contact, but also spur business and economic growth and speed the full reopening of the Canadian-U.S. border.

At least one U.S. state has already announced its intent to provide vaccines to Canadian, and New York should be a leader in this effort as well.

REPLY TO: ALBANY OFFICE: ROOM 302, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (518) 455-3438
 JEFFERSON COUNTY OFFICE: 317 WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM 418, WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601 (315) 782-3418
 OSWEGO COUNTY OFFICE: 46 EAST BRIDGE STREET, FIRST FLOOR, OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126 (315) 342-2057
 ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE: 330 FORD STREET, OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK 13669 (315) 393-3024

E-MAIL: RITCHIE@NYSENATE.GOV

WEBSITE: RITCHIE.NYSENATE.GOV



Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patty Ritchie
State Senator



Mark Walczyk
Member of Assembly

cc: Hon. Eric Duncan
Member of the Parliament
691 Brookdale Avenue, Unit C
Cornwall, Ontario, CANADA
K6J 5C6

Hon. Steve Clark
Member of the Provincial Parliament
Suite 101, 100 Strowger Blvd.
Brockville, Ontario, CANADA
K6V 5J9

Ms. Dana Carotenuto, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Cuomo