



January 6, 2021

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
Executive Chamber
Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of New York State represent 130 of plumbing and HVAC contractors employing thousands of professionals ensuring Americans have access to clean air and water in their homes. As efforts are underway for the safe distribution and administration of the COVID vaccine to frontline essential workers, we urge you to ensure plumbing and heating, ventilation, air- conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) contractors are among those prioritized for vaccination under Phase 1B once emergency responders, health care workers, nursing home residents, and others prioritized under Phase 1A distribution have been sufficiently vaccinated.

Plumbing and HVACR contractors protect the health and safety of the American people by ensuring the water and air consumed in their homes are safe, and food is stored at the appropriate temperatures to prevent the spread of bacteria. In fact, refrigeration contractors in particular play a central role in ensuring COVID vaccines are stored at the correct temperatures to ensure maximum effectiveness.

These contractors are in daily contact with customers and have first-hand exposure to human waste, sewage, and airborne particles that make them particularly vulnerable not only to COVID infection but other biohazards as well.

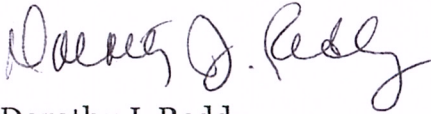
Considering the substantial contact and interaction with customers, for the sake of public safety it is incumbent that these contractors are given priority to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in order to mitigate its spread. This problem is further compounded by the fact that the increase in COVID infections is correlated to the decrease in outdoor temperatures as we enter the winter season, when customer needs for hot water and air heating services are on the rise. With millions of American families spending more time at home than any other time in recent memory, the necessity of our services to keep them healthy and comfortable is higher than ever, especially with vulnerable populations.

It is important to note that plumbing and HVACR contractors are identified by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) as critical infrastructure workers for the very reasons listed above. We ask that you take this into consideration as you draft vaccination guidelines for New York State.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy J. Reddy', written in a cursive style.

Dorothy J. Reddy
Executive Director
NYS Plumbing, Heating, Cooling,
Contractors, Inc. PO Box 23
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
dreddy@nysphcc.org

Cc: Gareth Rhodes, Deputy Superintendent & Special Counsel
Megan Baldwin, Special Advisor the Chancellor for Public Health Policy, SUNY