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NYSUT Suffolk Regional Office
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15 February 2021

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Kris Shirley

Addressee

Line 1

Line 2

Dear _____:

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter we have sent to Governor Cuomo advocating for the addition of lifeguards employed by New York State to be added to the 1b list for vaccine eligibility. Over the summer of 2020, with a 5% increase in park attendance throughout the entire state, and an almost 20% increase in the Long Island Region, lifeguards consistently provided a safe environment for people to enjoy waterfront recreation during the pandemic. The push to get first responders vaccinated as part of 1b has not yet included lifeguards. With an average time of 10 weeks from the first vaccination until peak immune response, it is imperative we begin to protect the lifeguards who will be called upon to render the same level of service as last year. The longer we are delayed from gaining a spot in 1b, the more we are delaying addressing the health and safety of the frontline of waterfront facilities across the state. We hope to continue providing the highest quality lifeguard coverage in the upcoming summer, we are reaching out to ask for your assistance in advocating for our ability to join the list of those eligible to sign up for a vaccine. Thank you in advance for advocacy on behalf of lifeguards across New York State. Please let us know if you have any questions

Respectfully Yours,

Ryan P. Clark
President, New York State Lifeguard Corps