



**ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS
OF NEW YORK STATE**

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MICHAEL J. ELMENDORF II
PRESIDENT & CEO

March 5, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, construction has been broadly deemed essential in New York State and across the nation. As a result, to a significant degree—even during the most challenging times of this crisis—our industry, our members and their workforces have continued working to deliver critical construction and infrastructure projects, including those that aided in the direct response to the pandemic. In doing so, they have kept vital supply chains open and economic activity going at a time when that mattered more than ever.

That was, no doubt, the right call. Our industry has long experience working in hazard conditions and doing so safely. Our industry has also been rigorous about following protocols to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. The reports we receive from our members across New York—and your Administration’s data—bear out that construction has not been a significant source of COVID-19 transmission. Indeed, from what we are told by our members and field staff, when it is an issue, it has most often been the result of contact outside the jobsite.

As we begin to see light at the end of this long tunnel, both in terms of declining rates of infection and increasing availability of vaccines, **we urge you to expand access to vaccinations to the construction industry**. As the current CDC guidelines stand, it is clear construction included in Phase 1C. With President Biden’s efforts to increase vaccine supply nationwide and his announcement this week that he anticipates sufficient supply to vaccinate all adults by the end of May, now is the time to expand vaccine access in New York to include the construction industry. It will enhance not only the safety of those performing this essential work, but also those around them as the industry works in sensitive environments such as healthcare and education.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Elmendorf II
President & CEO, AGC NYS

CC: Dr. Howard Zucker, M.D., J.D., Commissioner, New York State Department of Health