



## NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

March 4, 2021

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor  
Executive Chamber  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

Dr. Jim Malatras, Chancellor  
State University of New York  
State University Plaza  
353 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12246

Dr. Howard Zucker, Commissioner  
NYS Department of Health  
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12237

***RE: USE OF SUNY ONEONTA AS COVID VACCINATION CLINIC***

Dear Governor Cuomo, Chancellor Malatras, Commissioner Zucker,

We write to respectfully request that you utilize the campus of SUNY Oneonta as a COVID-19 New York State-run vaccination point of dispensing (POD) site.

As you are aware, individuals in rural areas of the state have been forced to travel great distances to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Many in the counties we represent have driven four hours or more one way to receive the vaccine – if they are able to secure a coveted appointment. The lack of state-run facilities in many of our rural counties has left many feeling overlooked. All New Yorkers deserve the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

Now, with vaccine supplies increasing, it is imperative that the state open additional clinics in areas that have been underserved. Individuals, many of whom are elderly or dealing with serious health conditions, should have the ability to receive the vaccine at a site close to home. Additionally, many households in the districts we represent do not have access to broadband, further compounding the difficulties in securing a vaccination appointment. At this time, the Mohawk Valley region is last in the state for the number of vaccines administered. A local site that is well known and easily accessible is needed to bring those numbers up and ensure that shots get in the arms.

The SUNY Oneonta campus is well equipped to deliver the vaccine to residents in Otsego County and several surrounding rural counties where, to date, no state-run clinics have taken place. The campus has gone through a great transformation and is a true success story, now hosting an on-campus testing center for students and keeping positive cases in check. Acting President Dennis Craig and his staff are to be commended for their efforts along with their willingness to take the next step.

Acting President Craig and his staff have prepared a comprehensive strategy and are ready to host a vaccination site. The plan features a range of potential POD locations, both indoor and outdoor, which are highly accessible to visitors, with substantial parking and ample space to allow for proper social distancing. SUNY Oneonta can provide needed support including on site University Police, on site kitchens and catering capability, snow clearing and other facilities support. The campus facilities include a -80 low temp freezer with 13 cu ft of available space that is in a location securable for vaccine storage.

SUNY Oneonta is also collaborating closely with the Otsego County Health Department, local healthcare experts and municipal officials. Across the board buy-in is considerable.

We would encourage the State to take the next step and utilize this exceptional resource for the betterment of community health and safety.

Thank you for your review and consideration, we stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,



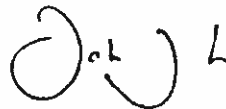
**PETER OBERACKER**  
State Senator – 51<sup>st</sup> District



**JOSEPH ANGELINO**  
State Assemblyman – 122<sup>nd</sup> District



**BRIAN MILLER**  
State Assemblyman – 101<sup>st</sup> District



**JOHN SALKA**  
State Assemblyman – 121<sup>st</sup> District



**CHRIS TAGUE**  
State Assemblyman – 102<sup>nd</sup> District