

José R. Romero, MD
Secretary
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 W. Markham Street, Slot 36
Little Rock, AR 72205

[date]

Dr. Romero,

I am the director of [xxx library], and am writing today to urge you to include library workers in category 1B for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Library workers have been key to assisting our community in this time of crisis and continue to provide front line services to the public.

During the pandemic, Arkansas' libraries have worked hard to keep their doors open so that people can access education support, job skill resources and apply for jobs online. As you are aware, many Arkansans do not have broadband internet access at home, and the local library can be a lifeline. We have purchased and offered mobile hotspots for people to access these resources from their homes.

Staff have worked so very hard to keep our libraries safe and sanitized. We have added new services such as curbside pickup to keep our patrons at a safe distance. We have moved our educational programs online, but people still want to come in to use our services. Many people take comfort in engaging in a normal activity such as visiting the library.

My library employs [xxx] people, yet we have [xxxx] visitors per year. Even though we were closed part of 2020, [xxxx] people still came through our doors! Investing in a small number of vaccines for library staff will have a BIG impact in slowing community spread and allow our staff to feel more comfortable in serving our public.

Adding library workers to the 1B list will help us work more closely with our local health departments and vaccine providers, and help libraries stay open to provide this lifeline to Arkansans. Please help me keep my staff and our public safe by allowing library workers to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[Library Director or Manager]