



Resolution to Prioritize Library Workers to Receive the COVID-19 Vaccine

Whereas COVID-19 is a deadly pandemic, and for safety reasons most library services and buildings have offered limited access to services or are outright closed;

Whereas American Library Association (ALA) Policy Manual A.1.1 (Mission, Priority Areas, Goals) states: "...ALA promotes the creation, maintenance, and enhancement of a learning society, encouraging its members to work with educators, government officials, and organizations in coalitions to initiate and support comprehensive efforts to ensure that school, public, academic, and special libraries in every community cooperate to provide lifelong learning services to all";

Whereas ALA Policy Manual B.8.11 (The Role of Libraries in Providing E-Government and Emergency Services) states: "The American Library Association urges governments at all levels to acknowledge and support the essential role local libraries play in providing e-government and emergency response/recovery services, and to include libraries in relevant legislative or other policy actions";

Whereas ALA Public Policy & Advocacy Office states: "Libraries are integral to community healing—even more so when it becomes safe to reopen their facilities," and points to the commitment of libraries nationwide to pandemic response and recovery;

Whereas many library workers have been providing in-person library services to their users throughout the pandemic, and may have been supporting critical front-line services that can help the whole community slow the spread of the virus, such as operating as vaccine sites, offering vaccine appointment registration, and finding accurate vaccine information;

Whereas physical libraries provide additional crucial services to populations which are underserved by broadband and other digital services;

Whereas libraries of all kinds serve essential roles in their communities as sources of trustworthy information;

Whereas a crucial step in the abatement of COVID-19 in communities is to inform and educate the population about the safety and efficacy of the various vaccines; and

Whereas all types of library workers (NAICS 51912x) are currently classified as 1c according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)³, and the Department of Homeland Security's Advisory Memorandum on Ensuring Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers' Ability to Work During the COVID-19 Response 4 (Version 4, December 2020, page 11) list media specialists and librarians, and "support prioritization decisions related to COVID-19 vaccines, especially in the early stages when the vaccines are in short supply."; now, therefore, be it



Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

- 1) encourages libraries to continue to share resources, strategies, and success stories in locally reclassifying library workers' priority level;
- 2) supports the right of library workers to receive vaccination treatment as soon as possible in order to provide safer services for the public and for library workers; and
- 3) direct this resolution jointly to the Committee on Legislation, Committee on Library Advocacy, and Chapter Relations Committee for analysis of impact on state and local contexts and provide a report to Council no later than March 31, 2021; and
- 4) affirms that Library Workers have a fundamental right to a safe work environment. This includes, but is not limited to, a library or other work setting that minimizes an employee's environmental risk of exposure to Covid-19.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 26, 2021, ALA Virtual Midwinter Council Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracie Hall", written in a cursive style.

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director and
Secretary of the ALA Council