

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Thank you for your continued leadership during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. New York has been a model for keeping the public safe and for the responsible resumption of commerce.

We are pleased that new guidance has been issued allowing additional industries to reopen, including bowling alleys and gyms. However, other businesses remain closed without any information about when and how they can resume work. Among these workers are the approximately 30,000 estheticians and makeup artists practicing in New York State. Many of these individuals are employed at small businesses, many of which are women-owned.

The Salon & Spa Professionals of NYS has submitted enhanced guidelines to your office and Empire State Development to illustrate how services, like facials, lip waxing, and makeup application, can be provided safely. Many businesses are already implementing these safety precautions in anticipation of reopening.

These strategies include positioning a plexiglass or acrylic shield over the client's face (while the practitioner still has their mask and eye protection on) during the service. Additionally, they have proposed requiring practitioners use full face-shields, rather than safety goggles/glasses that are permitted for other services, along with their masks for greater protection. The Salon & Spa Professionals of NYS have also made several suggestions on additional protective equipment, like nasal screens for clients and upgraded filters for HVAC systems. These suggestions have been made in consultation with the chair of the NYS Appearance Enhancement Advisory Committee and go beyond the mandated Phase 3 guidelines.

Since the peak of the pandemic, you have indicated states in the Northeast would work in conjunction to implement the safe reopening of the economy. While Massachusetts and New Jersey are all allowing these services to be performed, thousands of New York spa professionals continue to be out of work operating with only a fraction of their services available.

These professionals understand the need for ensuring the safety of their customers, however given the continued low infection rates across the state, I hope you will agree that these services can be done responsibly and safely.

We are urging you to issue guidance for this industry so that we can continue rebuilding our economy. Thanks again for all you have done for New York State, and the entire nation, during these unprecedented times.

CC:  
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Melissa DeRosa  
Elizabeth Garvey  
Eric Gertler

Sincerely,



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