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January 3, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a joyous and restful holiday season.

We embrace the New Year with hope, promise, and excitement about possibilities and new beginnings. At the same time, we are challenged with ongoing coronavirus-related issues, particularly with impacts of highly transmissible variants of the virus. We are especially concerned about the possible impact that these new mutations may have on our capacity to provide library services to the residents of New Jersey.

It is almost two years since we were hit by the coronavirus. It has been an overwhelming journey, with no real end in sight. I know that many are simply exhausted. We are continuing to ask you to pivot, often without precise guidelines. I want you to know that we are watching closely, and we are working with the Governor's Office of Outreach to get relevant and pertinent information to you. We will communicate expeditiously as we get new information to help inform your decision making.

The State of New Jersey's [COVID-19 Information Hub](#) remains the most up-to-date portal for virus-related information and mandates. Earlier today, I spoke with my contacts at the Governor's Office of Outreach, and I was apprised that discussions are in progress; however, there is no new information to share at this time. Many policies are set at the local level, and we encourage you to monitor and adhere to any new instructions from your local municipality or county health office.

Planning for negative and positive change has become a fabric of today's dynamic and unpredictable environment. As we continue to reimagine work, strengthen resilience, and continuously design for change, I encourage you to take a moment to take care of your mental health and remind yourself of everything you have accomplished.

Resilience defines us as New Jersey's library workers. We are poised to blaze new trails in 2022, and we will continue to be dynamic in the delivery of quality and effective library services. Thank you for the passion you bring to library work. I look forward to serving you and to working with you to serve New Jersey's residents and library workers.

Happy New Year!

Dr. Juliet Machie
Executive Director, NJLA