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## **GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY DECLARATION A CRITICAL AND SOUND STEP THAT WILL AID THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19**

*Statement by NYSACHO Executive Director Sarah Ravenhall*

“Governor Cuomo’s recent action to issue an emergency declaration concerning COVID-19 is a critical and sound step that will significantly aid our fight against the virus. The declaration will expedite essential public health activities and clear obstacles that would otherwise slow our collective response to the outbreak. The declaration enables several key actions that will assist localities including expedited access to supplies, testing and onboarding of personnel.

“Subject matter experts from the State Department of Health under leadership of Commissioner Zucker are working around the clock including weekends to support local health departments, providers and community members during this outbreak. The testing protocol and containment guidance set forward by the State is incredibly protective and will comprehensively mitigate community spread of this virus. County Health Officials stand prepared on the front lines of this outbreak and will respond in coordination with state leaders.

“The actions taken by the state are concrete, and they will be tremendously helpful. We are grateful to Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Zucker for their leadership as we all work together to combat COVID-19.”

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