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## **COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS TO NEW YORKERS: OUR PANDEMIC RESPONSE LEADERSHIP WILL REMAIN STEADFAST**

(Albany, New York) With the leadership transition occurring within state government, The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) today reassured the public that the work of all 58 local health departments to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will remain steadfast and uninterrupted. Most importantly, they strongly encourage residents to seek vaccination as this is the most effective way to prevent viral infection and severe symptoms.

As communities experience a rise in cases due to the delta variant, NYSACHO members are fully committed to continuing mitigation strategies that allow for the safe reopening and operation of schools, businesses, and events.

Dr. Indu Gupta, NYSACHO President and Commissioner of Health, Onondaga County said: "The 58 local health departments in New York State have been leading this response at local levels throughout the pandemic without pause. Local public health professionals will continue to share information with community members on Covid-19 transmission rates; effective disease mitigation strategies; current rules and regulations; and access to equitable vaccination sites. They will also continue with contract tracing, and quarantine and isolation activities for those impacted."

Sarah Ravenhall, Executive Director, NYSACHO said: "County and local health officials have been reliable in their expertise and positive impact throughout this pandemic, and they have been working around the clock to protect the people of their communities. You can count on them to remain steadfast despite years of workforce shortages and underfunding by the state. They have been and remain fully committed to effective and efficient public health response."

Amid these challenges, NYSACHO welcomes Kathy Hochul as our next governor, and looks forward to working with her to strengthen New York's local public health infrastructure and expand the local public health workforce that we all rely on to pursue

our daily lives in good health and safety. We are encouraged by the experience she has working at local levels of government and respect the time she spent traveling the state and speaking with community members directly during her time as Lieutenant Governor.

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