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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS' STATEMENT ON NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

by NYSACHO Executive Director Sarah Ravenhall

“The nation recognizes this week as National Public Health Week amid a pandemic that has demonstrated without question the value and essential nature of our federal, state and local public health infrastructure. This week we salute the tens of thousands of public health workers here in New York, and the hundreds of thousands across the nation, who have persevered throughout this era to protect their communities.

“We also redouble our commitment throughout this week, and beyond, to learn all we can from each other, to develop new strategies and solutions to improve health outcomes, and to remain flexible and prepared to counter those novel threats that are yet to arise.

“The timing of this week of national reflection and resolve aligns with the finalization of our state budget. It is encouraging to see that budget plan provides additional resources for local public health departments. We thank Governor Hochul for proposing those resources and we encourage the Legislature to adopt them in a final budget. We also ask the Legislature to provide the resources necessary to address a persistent threat to the health of our children—lead poisoning—by fully funding a 2019 law crafted to protect thousands more children from lead poisoning and to restore funding to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene which was reduced in the 2019 budget.

“Lastly, we want to thank New York’s public health workers for all they have done during the pandemic, for all they have done prior to the pandemic, and for all they will do in the future to ensure our families and communities remain safe.”

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