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## **NYSACHO STATEMENT ON COMMISSIONER BASSETT DECLARING POLIO AN “IMMINENT THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH”**

**By Sarah Ravenhall, Executive Director**

“We applaud this historic action by Commissioner Bassett to declare the transmission of polio virus an imminent threat to public health. This action will allow local health departments to respond with increased reimbursement to this dangerous virus in local communities. For the first time in our state history, there are now three simultaneous statewide imminent threats to public health formally declared in New York State. The combination of COVID-19, monkeypox and now polio brings sharp focus to the need to support public health workers and bolster our ability to respond to these threats.

“This declaration highlights the dedication Commissioner Bassett and Governor Hochul hold for protecting the public from threats to public health, and we look forward to working collaboratively with her administration and the state Department of Health in the coming budget year to address the needs growing needs of our local statewide public health infrastructure to ensure they are prepared to respond to future public health emergencies.

“As it relates to polio, we strongly encourage every eligible adult and child to get vaccinated as soon as possible. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, no new cases of polio have originated in the U.S. since 1979, making it virtually eradicated until now. We must act quickly to get back on top of it and doing so requires the cooperation of all of us to get vaccinated.”

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