



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
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## **NEW YORK'S PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS PROUDLY OBSERVE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**

(Albany, New York) Public Health officials representing New York's 58 Local Health Departments will join their colleagues across the nation to mark the week of April 3-9 as National Public Health Week. The week of recognition is an initiative by the American Public Health Association to highlight the importance of a robust public health system.

The theme of this year's recognition, "Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health," focuses on the importance of community involvement and health equity strategies that can improve the health and wellbeing of all communities.

Sarah Ravenhall, NYSACHO Executive Director, said: "National Public Health Week provides us with an opportunity to recognize the crucial role public health workers play in protecting our communities from illness, injury and disease. This year we also place an added emphasis on addressing health disparities that disproportionately impact traditionally underserved communities in both rural and urban areas.

"The week of reflection comes at a time when the public health workforce is under tremendous duress. More than 25 percent of local public health staff across New York State left their jobs since 2019, creating a silent public health emergency that needs the immediate attention of state and local policy makers," Ravenhall said.

Ravenhall will be touring local health departments throughout the week to recognize the professionals and leaders who work every day to keep their communities healthy. You can follow her tour on Facebook and Twitter @nysacho or by using the hashtag #NPHW.

To learn more about National Public Health Week visit: <https://nphw.org/>

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