



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Colleagues:

This is probably the most critical monthly letter I have sent to you since I became Health Commissioner of New York State. Every 24 hours, the deluge of new cases of COVID-19 in downstate hospitals further stretches and strains State resources and our existing healthcare system. Frontline healthcare workers in these regions have been making heroic sacrifices to provide lifesaving care for the rapidly increasing number of New Yorkers becoming ill with COVID-19.

If you are one of these frontline workers, thank you on behalf of Governor Cuomo and the Department of Health. Words alone cannot express the depth of gratitude that we—along with your fellow New Yorkers and fellow Americans—feel for your incredible public service.

To clinicians in other parts of the State, I am asking for your help as we fight one of the greatest public health threats of our lifetimes. We desperately need more qualified health professionals to supplement our hospital capacity on a temporary basis to treat COVID-19 patients. [Please complete this form on the Department's website to make your lifesaving service available.](#)

I am also asking that you alert current and former colleagues and retired healthcare professionals of this call to service. We need physicians, nurses, nurse-practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, EMTs, and other frontline medical personnel. We welcome those whose licenses have expired, because experience and skills are what matter right now. New York State will recertify these individuals for immediate deployment.

Making this kind of request is not easy for me. I know that so many of you always give your 100 percent. But your phenomenal commitment is what we need now more than ever to boost our capacity to hold the line. Governor Cuomo has asked for help from healthcare workers in every state across the country because the New York metro area is now the epicenter of this massive global emergency.

Your clinical expertise and experience are absolutely essential for the preservation of public health in our state. As Health Commissioner and a physician, I am asking for all hands on deck at this make-or-break moment. I hope we can count on your integrity, your compassion, and your commitment to public service. Thank you for your continued excellent work.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.