



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

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

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

March 24, 2020

Dear Colleague:

As New York State and the Department of Health mobilize every available resource to fight one of the greatest public health threats of our lifetimes, I am asking for your help.

COVID-19 has already stretched and strained state resources and our existing healthcare system. Healthcare workers in every corner of the state have been making sacrifices to provide the best care for the rapidly increasing numbers of people who will need it.

But even with the unwavering commitment of our dedicated healthcare professionals, we know we cannot meet this unprecedented challenge with current staffing levels.

We desperately need more qualified health professionals to supplement our hospital capacity on a temporary basis.

That is why I am reaching out today. I am asking licensed professionals like you to lend your clinical expertise and experience during this public health emergency. Through immediate, collective action, you can help us to save lives in New York State.

I am also asking that you alert current and former colleagues and retired healthcare professionals of this need and call to service. We need physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory therapists and EMTs, and other frontline medical personnel.

We welcome those whose licenses have expired, whether recently or long ago, because experience and skills are what matter right now. New York State will recertify these individuals for immediate deployment.

We especially need healthcare reinforcements in the Downstate areas that have been hardest hit by this outbreak. Your service in these regions would provide a critical boost to our capacity and really help us hold the line.

I ask that you please share this call for help with any health professional able to support the state's response. Please visit: [www.health.ny.gov/assistance](http://www.health.ny.gov/assistance) to indicate your interest and availability.

Making this kind of request is not easy for me, but I assure you that it is 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 rely on your integrity, compassion, and your commitment to public service.

With my sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard Zucker M.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "Z" and "U".

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.  
Commissioner of Health