

**ADVISORY FOR PLANNING PURPOSES:** 11AM Thursday, August 5, 2021

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**\*MEDIA ADVISORY\***

**ON DAY OF DEADLINE, ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND MEDICAL EXPERTS CALL ON NY DEPT. OF HEALTH TO FULLY IMPLEMENT WORKPLACE COVID SAFETY LAW**

**WHAT:** With the Delta variant driving a new wave of COVID cases across New York and the CDC recommending masking even for vaccinated people, the NY Essential Workers Coalition will call on the New York State Department of Health (DOH) to fully implement the NY HERO Act. The law, passed earlier this year, requires employers to adopt COVID safety plans on August 5th that include providing workers with PPE and sanitary worksites, among other provisions. Companies will not be required to follow the new requirements, however, until DOH declares COVID "a highly contagious communicable disease that presents a serious risk of harm to the public health," which the agency has so far failed to do. As Governor Cuomo faces calls for resignation following the AG report, essential workers are calling on the agency to take charge in ensuring the health and safety of New Yorkers.

Essential workers, health experts, and advocates will share new stories of workplaces rolling back COVID safety practices, even as rates spike, and urge the DOH to take action before more workers become infected.

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 5, 11AM

**WHERE:** NYS Department of Health  
90 Church Street  
New York, NY 10007

**WHO:** NYC workers from industries including healthcare, sanitation, warehousing, construction, laundromats, retail, and nail salons. Essential Worker Coalition Members including ALIGN; New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health; Teamsters Joint Council 16; Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU); New York State Nurses Association; UFCW Locals 1500 and 2013; Workers United; Food Chain Workers Alliance; The Legal Aid Society; New York Communities for Change; (NOTE: list in formation).

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