State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the world is facing one of the most significant health crises in modern history due to COVID-19, which has also caused a global economic downturn, impacting people and their ability to access health care; and

Whereas, New York State has been a national leader in the response to COVID-19 by flattening the curve and controlling the spread of the virus; and

Whereas, in order to protect individual and public health, we must slow the spread of COVID-19, and covering the mouth and nose, wearing a mask, and practicing social distancing can dramatically reduce transmission of the virus; and

Whereas, affordable, quality health insurance coverage ensures access to care and makes a material difference in the health and well-being of the people of New York State; and

Whereas, access to health insurance is important because those without coverage are less likely to see a doctor when they become ill, or for treatment of a chronic condition, and forgo necessary care until their condition becomes intolerable; and

Whereas, New York State has made tremendous strides in expanding access to affordable, comprehensive coverage, cutting the number of uninsured New Yorkers in half between 2013 and 2018, and improving overall population health and wellbeing; and

Whereas, New York State has a long history of ensuring consumer protections, including enacting a ban on pre-existing condition exclusions, protecting women's reproductive rights, and requiring health plans to provide comprehensive essential health benefits including mental health care and coverage for addiction treatment; and

Whereas, New York's official health plan marketplace, NY State of Health, was established in 2012 through Executive Order 42 and codified in Article 2, Title VII of the NY Public Health Law in 2019, and provides access to affordable, quality coverage and care to New York State residents, which is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic conditions; and

Whereas, New York State opened a Special Enrollment Period in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and extended it through the end of 2020 to ensure that New Yorkers do not avoid seeking COVID-19-related testing or medical care due to a lack of health insurance coverage; and

Whereas, New York State joins Governors across the country to launch a national movement to help address the COVID-19 pandemic by helping people protect themselves and making sure everyone who can, enrolls in health care;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim December 10, 2020 as

GET COVERED FOR 2021 NEW YORK DAY

in the Empire State and call upon all residents to: *Mask Up For COVID* – Wear a Mask to help yourself and your community stay safe and save lives; *Stop the Spread* – Socially distance, wash your hands, cover your cough, take caution with New Yorkers at risk; *Cover Yourself and Your Family* – Renew your health coverage, if you haven't already, and if you do not have insurance, make 2021 the year you change that. To enroll, contact NY State of Health or visit www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov; and, as always, *Stay "New York Tough."*

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eighth day of December in the year two thousand twenty.

STATE OF NEW YORK · EXECUTIVE PRIVY SEAL ·

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa