PETITION TO NYC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ITS MEMBERS:

Dr. Dave Chokshi, Dr. Pamela S. Brier, Dr. Sixto Caro, Dr. Joel Forman, Dr. Sidney Hankerson, Dr. Rosa Gil, Dr. Mitchell Katz, Dr. Susan Klitzman, Dr. Simona Kwon, Dr. Karen Redlener, and Dr. Lynne D. Richardson

as well as to incoming Commissioner of Health if Dr. Dave Chokshi leaves

We are: parents, aunts and uncles, friencs, neighbors, taxpayers and community members deeply concerned about the lack of interaction with NYers at the NYC Department of Health.

Summary of demands: A tangible shift to a transparent Dept of Health that does measurable public outreach and re-establishes TWO WAY communication with the public. An immediate halt to Dept of Health endorsement of Covid vaccinations of children pending independent review and discussion that includes the people of NYC, and *independent* doctors and nurses and other health care staff. Immediate ceasing of NYC's agressive program of vaccination of children until a complete public review and discussion are complete. Immediate halt to DOH economic coercion of low-income NYers with \$100 payments for getting vaccinated. We also condemn the DOH for prioritizing Covid-19 for the past two years to the *near total neglect of every other health issue and disease* and demand the DOH dedicate tangible human resources, public service announcements and budget resources to treating obesity, heart disease, diabetes, malnutrition, early treatment of Covid-19, and vaccine injury in 2022.

Full list of concerns and related demands:

1) The Dept of Health's 212-COVID19 infoline does not answer callers's questions. Rather, its operators only reads out Big Pharma approved messaging such as that "Covid19 vaccines are safe and effective." When callers to the infoline ask for clear data and statistics about vaccine safety or Covid-19 risk, we have been told NYCDOH "does not have that information." For example, a caller asked "what is the mortality rate for kids from Covid-19?" She was told the DOH did not have that information. The operator told her "the CDC would have that" and then was told to "call the state DOH" to get this information. This is unacceptable!

We demand that the 212Covid19 "infoline" be revamped to offer real data and answers for parents and the public, not the current canned responses. The

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information available must be all medically sound and useful public information, not just what vaccine manufacturers approve of. We demand the infoline also include information for people about early treatment and prevention of Covid not exclusively info about Covid vaccines.

2) The NYC Health Commissioner does not have a public schedule. We the People have a right to know how he is working to improve and protect the public health and where we can reach him. It is not unreasonable for him to provide a public schedule, especially while he implements severe measures like vaccine mandates.

We demand the Commissioner publish his schedule so the public and the press can know where he is. This will immediately provide the transparency and democracy the Department currently lacks.

3) NYCDOH has no public facing phone numbers nor published email addresses for NYers to use to contact the Department of Health and its various subdivisions. The hard to find "contact" form on nyc.gov is insufficient. The Commissioner's office is extremely hard to call and email. We want and need TWO WAY COMMUNICATION with the City's Health Department.

We demand the DOH create functioning public-facing phone numbers and emails. This includes working phones and emails for its outer borough locations as well.

4) We hear the Commissioner of Health, multiple times a day on radio and internet promoting Covid-19 vaccines. These DOH vaccine announcements are indistinguishable from pharmaceutical advertisments for the Covid vaccines. This is a conflict of interest for the Commissioner. The announcements rely on emotional hooks (i.e. "I'm a father like you", "the vaccines are safe and effective", calming music), to sell NYers on the vaccines instead of the clear scientific data we need to weigh the risks of getting vaccinated. This raises serious questions for NYers. Is Dr. Choksni guided by science or by a desire to make sales for Pfizer, BioTech and Moderna?

We demand the NYC DOH cease to run these pro-vaccine announcements. The announcements are a conflict of interest and confuse the public.

5) The Dept of Health is exploiting low-income families and communities with offers of cash payments in exchange for taking a Covid-19 vaccine. This is abominable. \$100 is a substantive incentive to a person living in poverty or on

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the streets, and causes many low-income NYers to take the vaccine despite their concerns about safety. We are also learning that destitute NYers are taking the vaccine multiple times a month just to get money to live.

We demand DOH immediately cease to "offer" cash incentives for taking a Covid-19 vaccine. It is economic exploitation.

6) The Dept of Health meetings, which are supposed to be open to members of the public, are virtually impossible for the public to attend. Whether the meeting is virtual or in-person, I could find no advance notice of DOH meetings on the DOH website, only recordings of past meetings (which were also hard to find), they were buried in a section called "Notices and Orders." Furthermore, though the meetings are supposed to be announced in advance at DCAS/City Record, I could find no information about DOH meetings there either. I located the moderator of a past meeting, Harminder Rana, outside the DOH and asked him how members of the public can register. Even he could not figure it out when he attempted to help me. NYers snould be able to easily locate advance notice of upcoming meetings. Not even 311 operators know where to look to find out about these meetings. It is no wonder that when you watch archived videos of past DOH meetings that are "open to members of the public," that in most of the past meetings no member of the public has signed up to speak.

We demand that the DOH implement adequate measures to give the public advance notice of its meetings, including: clear announcements at the top of its nyc.gov webpage at least ten days in advance; an announcement in a visual media network such as NY1; announcements on the @nychealthy and @nychealthcommissioner Twitter and Facebook and IG accounts; and announcements on the radio at least twice a day for ten days in advance of the meeting. We furthermore demand that DOH begin to hold at least 50 percent of its meetings in-person. There is no justification for DOH to continue to operate remote only meetings when other city agencies have fully or partially reopened, and when hospitals and health clinics are now fully re-opened.

7) The DOH has become hyperfocused on Covid-19 and the distribution of vaccines and in the process has abandoned its responsibility to the public health. We believe this is due not to real health priorities determined by the data, but by political interests dictated by the pharmaceutical and medical industries. Note that in Sept 2020, the CEO of Pfizer "reached out" to our Mayor in writing offering to help guide the City government in handling Covid-19. This is an egregious conflict of interest from the CEO who will make gazillions more depending what the City does. Albert Boula had NO business reaching out to the Mayor. Hands off our City! The NYC Dept of Health devotes NO time nor resources to the emerging health crises that are growing City-wide and harming

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We New Yorkers are fed up. NYCDOH has evolved into a "closed shop" that does not make any effort at meaningful engagement with the people of NYC. Commisioner and Board of DOH, you do not work for Pfizer, YOU WORK FOR the PEOPLE CF NYC!!!

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