



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 15, 2022

**STATEMENT FROM DR. ASHWIN VASAN ON BEGINNING TENURE AS 44TH NYC
HEALTH COMMISSIONER**

“Public health is deeply personal to me, and my experiences have prepared me to confront this critical moment. COVID-19 has further exposed deep inequities that have resulted in far too much taken from far too many New Yorkers. But the knowledge and skills within public health hold the keys to finally redressing these intergenerational injustices, by addressing both upstream and downstream drivers of health. This pandemic has also left our city with physical and emotional wounds that will fester and spread if we do not act now, with focus and intent. Our recovery must be centered on equity, fairness and addressing the mental health needs of our city. I look forward to getting started as Commissioner of one of the most esteemed health departments in the country, and the world.”

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