

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## STATEMENT FROM HPA PRESIDENT & CEO ERIC LINZER ON NY CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Health Plans Ready to Assist State in Efforts to Combat Threat; Warn Against Creating Consumer Confusion

"We recognize the significant public health threat that the Coronavirus poses, and our health plans are committed to working with state health experts and regulators so that members are informed about the virus and that they have access to appropriate testing and treatment as quickly as possible.

"We are currently reviewing the Department of Financial Services' recent Coronavirus preparedness guidance and have been in contact to discuss its implementation to help reduce the health risks associated with the virus. We agree with Governor Cuomo that patients should be protected from surprise billing and it will be critical for the state to provide direction to the entire health care system – hospitals, doctors, providers and pharmaceutical manufacturers – that no entity should exploit this public health crisis and that we all share in making sure that New Yorkers are protected."

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The New York Health Plan Association represents 29 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 8 million New Yorkers.