

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 4, 2022

Media Contact:

Jen Daly (LGINY)

860.398.3916

daly@graymediagroup.com



STRONG VACCINE POLICIES ARE KEY TO FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, COMBATING PREVENTABLE DISEASE

(ALBANY, N.Y.) Today, members of the Let's Get Immunized NY coalition held a series of virtual meetings with lawmakers from across the state to thank them for legislation that has already strengthened New York vaccine policy and access and to discuss ways to continue to work together to advance additional public health goals.

Among other items, LGINY is calling for support of [S75a, Hoylman/A279a, Gottfried](#) which if passed into law would establish a more robust vaccination registry for New York adults aged 19 and older across the state. Individuals would have the ability to opt out of the registry if they so choose.

"The pandemic proved the necessity of establishing reliable vaccination status," said Vito Grasso, Executive Vice President of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians. "And the process was done well, with verification cards and utilization of our State and City immunization registries, and other technologies to help patients and providers keep track of their COVID shots. Expanding that to cover all vaccines for New York adults along with reminders of when a vaccination is due will help to ensure better disease prevention."

LGINY members also thanked lawmakers for the work done in this year's budget to support vaccine access and investment in public health infrastructure including an investment of \$77.1 million over two years for local health departments to carry out key public health programming, including vaccinations.

“Expanding access and education about the value, safety and necessity of vaccines has been critical in the last few years, and we must continue to focus on addressing disparities in vaccination, especially in rural communities and communities of color “ said Bethsy Morales-Reid, Assistant Vice President for Programs at the Hispanic Federation.

Members of Let’s Get Immunized NY will also advocate for additional state funding for a dedicated public relations and education campaign focused on all vaccines.

“While significant resources have been put toward a statewide education campaign focused on COVID-19 vaccines, New York should build on this effort with an ongoing campaign to remind residents of the importance of receiving recommended vaccinations, both for children and adults, and to counter the disinformation and anti-vaccine efforts, which seek to confuse and discourage the use of life-saving vaccines” said Dr. Gus Birkhead, professor emeritus of the University at Albany School of Public Health, a board member of the New York State Public Health Association, and former chair of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee.

Representatives from about a dozen physician, nurse, public health and health/social equity organizations as well as individual health providers discussed these important vaccine policies with lawmakers representing districts across the State throughout the day.

[Let’s Get Immunized NY](#) has over 50 diverse members including social justice organizations, educational and parent-focused groups, business advocates, agriculture and health care provider and public health organizations.

###