



## **Fighting COVID-19 Together**

The community we serve is primarily composed of people of color! We know that our community is disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 virus. *Mayor de Blasio reported that “Hispanic New Yorkers account for 34 percent of the coronavirus fatalities despite being 29 percent of the city’s population...African Americans make up 28 percent of COVID-19 deaths — even though they are just 22 percent of the city’s population.”*

We know that our community suffers from medical problems such as diabetes and high blood pressure that make us more vulnerable to the virus and may have resulted in more deaths, however, we cannot overlook the fact that our community is also suffering from social and economic issues that lead to disease such as:

1. **Income and social status**
2. **Employment and working conditions**
3. **Education and literacy**
4. **Childhood experiences**
5. **Physical environments**
6. **Social supports and coping skills**
7. **Healthy behaviors**
8. **Access to health services**
9. **Biology and genetic endowment**
10. **Gender**
11. **Culture**
12. **Race / Racism**

COVID-19 disproportionately affects our community with respect to these social determinants but most importantly...it is our community that is disproportionately serving on the *front lines* of this pandemic.

According to NYS Governor Cuomo:

41% of our frontline workers are *people of color* including:

- 45% of public transit workers
- 57% of building cleaning service workers and
- 40% of healthcare workers

66% of our front line workers are women

33% of our front line workers are members of low-income households

People of color are also disproportionately represented in delivery services and childcare services. The front line also includes those who put food on our grocery shelves, clean hospitals, collect our garbage, work in our banks, respond to medical and safety emergencies, protect us, and more...

Those who stay home and those who work from home helping to “flatten the curve” are also significant participants in the fight against COVID-19!

What you should do to protect yourself and others...

To prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Clean your hands often. Use soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- If you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention. Call in advance.
- Follow the directions of your local health authority.
- Avoiding unneeded visits to medical facilities allows healthcare systems to operate more effectively, therefore protecting you and others.

*We stand by you and empathize with all who have lost loved ones during this pandemic. We thank all of our community for your service and for your sacrifice. We will continue to serve you during and after this difficult time!*