



PAT BURKE  
Assemblyman 142<sup>nd</sup>  
Erie County

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

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Development, Job Creation,  
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Environmental Conservation,  
Science and Technology,  
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Sports Development

August 5, 2021

Dr. Howard Zucker  
Commissioner of Public Health  
New York Department of Health  
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237

Dear Commissioner Zucker,

We, along with school superintendents, parents, and children across the state, are anxiously awaiting guidance from the department on COVID protocols as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

The Department's refusal to offer guidance is a complete abdication of its responsibility to public health and leaves families in a state of uncertainty. State Education Commissioner Betty Rosa has already issued a letter to school superintendents expressing her concerns about the lack of guidance from the State Department of Health.

We disagree with your contention that the Department of Health does not have the power to issue guidance and directives. As Commissioner, you have a duty to protect the health of New Yorkers. There must be uniform guidelines in place for every school district as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Patrick Burke  
Member of Assembly  
142<sup>nd</sup> District

Al Stirpe  
Member of Assembly  
127<sup>th</sup> District

Monica Wallace  
Member of Assembly  
143<sup>rd</sup> District

John McDonald  
Member of Assembly  
108<sup>th</sup> District

Sarah Clark  
Member of Assembly  
136<sup>th</sup> District

Jennifer Lunsford  
Member of Assembly  
135<sup>th</sup> District

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Member of Assembly  
146<sup>th</sup> District

Demond Meeks  
Member of Assembly  
137<sup>th</sup> District

Harry Bronson  
Member of Assembly  
138<sup>th</sup> District

Anna Kelles  
Member of Assembly  
125<sup>th</sup> District

Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Member of Assembly  
81<sup>st</sup> District

William Conrad  
Member of Assembly  
140<sup>th</sup> District

Donna Lupardo  
Member of Assembly  
123<sup>rd</sup> District

Richard Gottfried  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
75<sup>th</sup> District

Amy Paulin  
Member of Assembly  
88<sup>th</sup> District

Aileen M. Gunther  
Member of Assembly  
100<sup>th</sup> District

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Member of Assembly  
25<sup>th</sup> District

Catalina Cruz  
Member of Assembly  
39<sup>th</sup> District

Andrew D. Hevesi  
Member of Assembly  
28<sup>th</sup> District

Pamela J. Hunter  
Member of Assembly  
128<sup>th</sup> District

Phil Steck  
Member of Assembly  
110<sup>th</sup> District

Deborah Glick  
Member of Assembly  
66<sup>th</sup> District