



For Immediate Release

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OCT. 22: Amida Care and *Gay City News* to Host Panel Discussion on COVID-19's Impact on New York's Plan to End HIV

“COVID-19's Impact on New York's Plan to End HIV: A Discussion” will feature remarks by Johanne Morne, Director of the NYS DOH AIDS Institute and panelists including Dr. Anisha Gandhi of the NYC Health Department

Amida Care to release policy brief titled “A Pandemic and an Epidemic: COVID-19 and Ending HIV in New York,” discussing the unique impact the pandemic has had on New Yorkers living with HIV and the State's goal of Ending the HIV Epidemic by 2020

New York, NY (October 14, 2020) – Amida Care, New York's largest nonprofit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) designed for New Yorkers affected by HIV, and *Gay City News*, New York's chief newspaper for the LGBTQ community, will host “*COVID-19's Impact on New York's Plan to End HIV: A Discussion*” on Thursday, October 22 from 1PM to 2PM. Just one week before New York State's annual PrEP Aware Week, expert panelists at this event will discuss how the pandemic has affected efforts to expand PrEP uptake and provide access to HIV testing and treatment. Accompanying the webinar will be the release of “A Pandemic and an Epidemic: COVID-19 and Ending HIV in New York,” a policy brief authored by Amida Care.

WHO:

Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care

Johanne Morne, Director, New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute

Dr. Anisha Gandhi, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of HIV, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Dr. David Collymore, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Clinical Affairs, Acacia Network

Ahmed Mohamed, Civil Engagement and Community Organizer for NEW Pride Agenda and PrEP consumer

Dr. Asa Radix, Senior Director of Research and Education, Callen-Lorde Community Health Center

Paul Schindler, Editor-in-Chief of *Gay City News* (moderator)

WHAT:

Panel discussion on how COVID-19 has impacted New York State's goal of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by the end of 2020.

WHEN:

Thursday, October 22, 1PM to 2PM EDT

WHERE:

To receive a copy of the policy brief and dial-in information for the webinar, **media must RSVP to Jake Oliver at jake@anatgerstein.com**

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are of transgender experience or homeless (regardless of HIV status). Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.