



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Responds to CBS New York Story Containing Stigmatizing Language About HIV

New York, NY (January 10, 2020) –Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, New York’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan designed for New Yorkers living with complex conditions like HIV, released the following statement in response to a CBS New York article and social media post that perpetuated inaccurate and dangerous information about HIV:

“The language used by CBS New York in their report on an incident between a Port Authority Police Officer and a suspect living with HIV is not just careless and false – it’s extremely dangerous. We have known since the early days of the epidemic, decades ago, that HIV can only be transmitted by blood or sexual fluid – not saliva or casual contact. Though we’ve made tremendous progress in the fight against HIV, stigma remains one of the major obstacles standing in our way as we strive to end the epidemic. Such wildly inaccurate information about how HIV is transmitted contributes to stigma that discourages people from seeking HIV treatment or prevention, and has no place being published in any reputable media outlet.

“We call on CBS New York and all media outlets to publish accurate and educational information about HIV, and for law enforcement agencies working in New York to train their officers about the basics of HIV transmission to avoid criminalizing people living with the virus. Failure to do so will make it more difficult to meet New York State’s goal of ending the epidemic by the end of 2020.”

About Amida Care

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with chronic conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are of transgender experience or who are 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.

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