STAY HEALTHY TO STAY OPEN

New Yorkers have made great progress fighting back against the COVID-19 pandemic, and now is the time to put needed protections in place that will help ensure that we don't take steps backward.

We experienced how frustrating and dangerous it was to have to shut down again during the Omicron variant's peak, with neighbors experiencing long waits for testing and days without a result. That must not happen again, and this plan will help prevent that.

1 Get our booster rates up with proactive scheduling

Launch a Get Boosted campaign, providing every New Yorker who isn't vaccinated with a text, email, and postcard with an appointment and location for a booster shot. This campaign should include walk-in appointments and should give New Yorkers who get boosted a $100 incentive. **Priority implementation of the program should be for neighborhoods that were hardest hit during Covid previous waves.**

2 Make high quality masks standard and ubiquitous in every building

Every person should have access to free high-quality masks in every building, and the City should supply small businesses and local non-profits with free masks. We must take our respiratory hygiene seriously.

3 Provide every New York with a Covid Safety Bag

We should work now to provide every New Yorker with a COVID safety bag, and front-line essential workers, as well as communities hardest hit by the pandemic, should be prioritized in the roll out of this program. These bags should include high quality masks, a thermometer, rapid test kits, hand sanitizer, a pulse oximeter for individuals at high risk of serious disease, and information in multiple languages about how to connect with local healthcare providers and the City's antiviral distribution program.

4 Improve data collection and remain vigilant for early warning signs

- Establish and fund a program for the City to continuously monitor disease in a sample of households, long-term care facilities, and shelters across the City. This program should be opt in, but should also provide incentive to get NYers to participate. A sample in each community could help track community spread early.

- Build infrastructure for self-reporting of at-home rapid tests so that local health experts have information to guide decision-making

- Utilize and publicly share wastewater data to identify the new waves and variants before high community spread begins

- Incorporate data on emergency room visits, hospital capacity, virus levels in wastewater, test positivity rates in the Mayor's color coded system

5 Work toward a full recovery for all

The City should work to deeply understand the intersectionality of COVID's impact on New York communities, and should use data about race, ethnicity, language spoken, housing status, employment and income to surge resources to underserved and high risk communities.