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Statement from Executive Director, Sarah Ravenhall, New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO)

(Albany, New York) New York State's County Health Officials are aware of the various system issues that exist within the contact tracing software and are working hand in hand with partners at the New York State Department of Health to communicate and resolve these issues.

While not broadly understood or recognized, one of the core functions of local health departments (LHDs) during communicable disease outbreak is contact tracing. Thousands of LHD staff are already leading these efforts in every corner of the state, marshaling resources, training volunteers, overseeing tracing operations and engaging in myriad other day to day tracing functions.

County public health leaders have a great deal of expertise in contact tracing. They have been doing it for decades, and they know what tools work best for them. So many naturally will select the system that works best in their county to ensure high quality of the tracing services they provide.

NYSACHO recognizes the effort required to expand contact tracing surge capacity, the need for common metrics and the Executive's desire to move toward a standard system in preparation for a possible next wave of COVID-19. We are all working together for the same goal, and the selection of these tools won't be an obstacle.

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