INEFFICIENCY LEADS TO INJUSTICE.

WITH THE COVID-19 VACCINE, THE DATA SPEAKS LOUDEST: OUR COMMUNITIES CANNOT CONTINUE TO BE UNDERSERVED AND OVERLOOKED.
Skepticism. Fear. Mistrust. Ambivalence. These are reactions that some people — particularly those in traditionally overlooked and underserved communities — are having in response to the prospect of taking one of the vaccines that have been approved for the fight against COVID-19. And consequentially, residents in those communities, largely Black and Brown populations, are also those most harshly hit by the virus.

Their reluctance to jump right in to be vaccinated is understandable, given this country’s history of having experimented, with disastrous results, on Black communities without their informed consent. And there are those whose cultural mistrust of preventive medicine and the medical system makes them shy away from registering for the vaccines. But given the stark facts as to which populations have been dying at the highest rate after exposure to the virus, getting educated about the potential of the vaccines and having an open mind about taking them could make the difference between who lives and who dies as the pandemic continues to surge.

After a prolonged vaccine rollout, I led a group of fellow elected officials in calling on the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to urge the creation of a real-time tracking system to coordinate, distribute, and administer COVID-19 vaccines, as well as prioritize vaccinations for high-risk individuals and populations, in an effort to ensure those who have been most impacted by this terrible pandemic are vaccinated promptly.

Unfortunately, vaccination implementation has been anything but efficient. And as we know, inefficiency leads to injustice. The COVID-19 crisis is no different, and truly has been a tale of two pandemics, with the virus taking the worst toll on Black and Brown communities. The disparity between who has had access to the vaccines and who hasn’t can be traced back to the fact that the City and State failed in the early stages to collect real-time data illustrating the severity of what the most impacted communities were facing. As we continue to roll out the vaccine, we must learn from these past mistakes and ensure that there is an equitable racial distribution of vaccine doses. And then people must take them. I urge all Brooklynites — and New Yorkers in general — to educate themselves about these life-saving measures, to be open to new technologies, and to trust in the science, scientists, and medical professionals who are fighting this disease on the frontlines.

We can’t miss our shot when it’s our turn to take it.

—Eric Adams
Please click on the links below to learn more about BP Adams’ efforts to provide relief and services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the work being undertaken at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

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January 3, 2021
Amid Slow Citywide Rollout Of COVID-19 Vaccine, BP Adams Calls on State Department of Health to Expand Eligibility and Institute Three-level, Color-coded, Transparent Deployment Plan

January 4, 2021
BP Adams Releases Testimony Slamming Trump Administration’s Attempts to Quietly Ram Through New Rule Relaxing Nutritional Standards on School Meals

January 5, 2021

January 8, 2021
In Midst of New Phase of COVID-19 Pandemic, BP Adams Announces Donations of More Than 600,000 Pieces of PPE for Brooklynites Last Year Alone

January 8, 2021
BP Adams Statement on Start of Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccinations

January 11, 2021
To Ensure Equitable Racial Distribution of Vaccine, BP Adams and BLAC Co-Chair CM Miller Demand Creation of Real-time Racial Data Vaccination Reporting System

January 13, 2021
BP Adams Statement on Opposition to FCRC Vote on Renewing Verizon’s Citywide Franchise

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BP Adams Statement on Opposition to FCRC Vote on Renewing Verizon’s Citywide Franchise
January 13, 2021
**BP Adams Statement on House Vote to Impeach President Trump Again**

January 15, 2021
**Statement by Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams on DOJ’s Announcement of Investigation into Attempted Coup Last Week**

January 25, 2021
**BP Adams Statement on NYCERS Vote to Divest from Fossil Fuels**

January 28, 2021
**BP Adams Statement on New NYPD Reform to Give Communities Direct Role in Selection of Precinct Commanders**

January 31, 2021
**BP Adams Statement On City’s Release Of Initial Demographic Data For COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution**
While the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President continues to provide policy guidance, relief efforts, and advocacy to combat the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the work of the borough continues in other areas as well. Check out what my office has been doing throughout the month of January:

- **The Mayor has announced that precinct community council’s will have a role in selecting precinct commanders at NYPD, a reform that BP Adams championed in order for local communities to have a greater say in public safety in their neighborhoods.**

- **BP Adams continues to call on the City to provide WiFi to children in shelters. While the City is moving at a glacial pace, others are moving to provide access quickly and less expensively.**

- **BP Adams proclaimed “Secretary Janet Yellen Celebration Day in Brooklyn” after the nation’s first female secretary of the US Treasury was confirmed.**

- **BP Adams called for expanded secure bike parking across New York City, similar to the bike pod his office worked to site at Atlantic Terminal in 2019. There is a need for infrastructure to match the need and desire for more bike lanes in NYC.**

- **BP Adams partnered with the New York State Attorney General, the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, and the NYPD to buy back guns in NYC.**

- **BP Adams called on the MTA to reopen 24/7 subway service. With vaccination appointments being made 24/7 we must restore 24/7 service so people can access their appointments and our essential workers can get to work safely and affordably.**

- **BP Adams voted to have the City divest from fossil fuels in its pension fund, removing $4 billion from investment in dirty energy.**

- **After a spate of serial killings, BP Adams offered to help pay for security cameras at NYCHA’s Woodson Houses if NYCHA cannot pay.**

- **BP Adams submitted a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request for data on COVID-19 vaccinations, broken down by race. There is a need to know who is getting vaccines, and to ensure that every community is getting its fair share, so that there is vaccine equity.**

- **BP Adams, with CM Brannan, called on the City to engage event ticketing companies to help with scheduling vaccine appointments.**

- **BP Adams demanded an investigation into former President Trump and his staff’s role in supporting and instigating the coup attempt on January 6th. He also called for a commission to investigate why Capitol security was so easily bypassed.**

- **BP Adams used his vote on the Franchise and Concession Review Commission (FRC) to vote against renewing Verizon’s contract with the City until it agrees to a more significant broadband buildout.**
Brooklyn is keeping it together, virtually.

(top) BP Adams shares his MLK Day greetings at the annual Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

(middle, top) BP Adams sent his Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day greetings to Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC)

(middle, bottom) BP Adams sent a message to the Shared Dream Foundation

(bottom) BP Adams shared his Lunar New Year greetings with Brooklyn Tech for the Year of the Ox
STAYING BROOKLYN STRONG

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

For information on the NYC Vaccine for All campaign, click here.

To determine if you are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine check here.

Eligible categories include:

• All outpatient and ambulatory frontline, high-risk health care providers who provide in-person patient care or other staff in a position where they have direct contact with patients of any age. This includes hospital and community-based ambulatory care, primary care, and outpatient behavioral health service providers; phlebotomists; physical and occupational therapists; and specialty clinics, including dialysis centers.
• All frontline, high-risk public health workers who have direct contact with patients
• Health care workers at COVID-19 testing sites
• High-risk hospital and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) staff
• Dentists
• Emergency medical service (EMS) personnel
• Medical examiners and coroners
• Funeral workers who have direct contact with infectious material and bodily fluids
• Staff and residents in congregate living facilities run by the NYS Offices for People With Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, and Addiction Services and Supports
• Urgent care providers
• Staff administering the COVID-19 vaccine
• Staff at dental practices of all types
• Those 65 years of age and older
• Other non-health care essential workers like teachers, taxi drivers, and delivery workers

State-run vaccination sites are now open for eligible New Yorkers. Vaccinations are by appointment only. To determine eligibility and schedule an appointment to receive their first dose, New Yorkers can utilize the state’s ‘Am I Eligible’ app or call the New York State Vaccination Hotline at 1-833-NYS-4VAX (1-833-697-4829). Appointments to receive the second dose at these sites are scheduled in-person after receiving the first dose. New Yorkers should not attempt to book their second appointment online.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

CDC:
https://www.cdc.gov/

NYC Dept of Health:
https://www1.nyc.gov/

NYC Vaccine Finder
https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/

For specific COVID-19 inquiries, click here.

To help feed First Responders, click here.

For all other inquiries, email askeric@brooklynbp.nyc.gov or call 718.802.3700

For real-time updates, follow:
Facebook: BKboroHall
Twitter: @BKboroHall
Instagram: @BKboroHall

Sign up for e-blasts here.

#BrooklynStrong

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