



Bill de Blasio  
 Mayor, City Hall  
 New York, New York 10007

**VIA EMAIL**

March 18, 2021

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

We encourage you and the Department of Health to establish full COVID-19 data transparency in New York City. Our recent letter to state leaders identified [121 datasets](#) that states and localities can provide. While NYC’s COVID-19 open data has improved greatly, there are still significant gaps – for example, the number of deaths by date by zip code are still not provided, and the vaccine page does not yet include any open data. We urge the City to publish more data in an open format as soon as possible.

We appreciate you and the New York City Department of Health embracing the City’s Open Data Law and publishing NYC COVID-19 data as open data. The COVID-19 data is available in a machine-readable, open format in the City’s COVID-19 website and open data portal. This builds public trust and increases government accountability by allowing independent analysis to develop a complete view of the COVID-19 emergency and New York City’s response.

Since we wrote to you on this matter in April 2020, NYC’s COVID-19 data page has continuously improved. The COVID-19 page and open data portal now include the following as open data:

- Hospitalization and death rates by zip code
- Numbers for diagnostic testing and molecular tests
- Antibody test rates by borough

Open data is vital for public health experts and journalists analyzing COVID-19 data trends. To date, the COVID-19 crisis has killed an estimated 30,471 people in New York City. We believe that by embracing full data transparency, NYC can help the public identify solutions to mitigate the crisis and save lives.

Thank you,

John Kaehny  
Executive Director  
Reinvent Albany

Noel Hidalgo  
Executive Director  
BetaNYC

Betsy Gotbaum  
Executive Director  
Citizens Union of the City of New York

Susan Lerner  
Executive Director  
Common Cause New York

Lesley Sigall  
Co-President  
League of Women Voters of the City of New York

David Cullier  
Board President  
National Freedom of Information Coalition

Diane Kennedy  
President  
New York News Publishers Association

Blair Horner  
Executive Director  
New York Public Interest Research Group

Julie Samuels  
Executive Director  
Tech:NYC