



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Ashwin Vasana, MD, PhD
Commissioner

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**STATEMENT FROM NYC HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. ASHWIN VASANA
ON SUPREME COURT EPA DECISION**

Today's Supreme Court's decision undermines the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency to address CO₂ (greenhouse gas) emissions from power plants, curbing its ability to combat climate change and threatening public health. Impacts from power plant emissions are not limited by State boundaries and, left unchecked, one state's emissions will contribute to public health harms throughout the United States and the globe. Already, extreme heat kills more Americans than any other form of extreme weather, and more lives will be lost without concerted efforts to address the climate crisis. In New York City alone, increasingly hot weather due to climate change results in about [370 deaths every summer](#), inequitably affecting people of color. Most Americans support federal action on climate change: Protecting public health and addressing the impacts of systemic racism also demands a focus on democracy.

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