



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Alister F. Martin, MD, MPP
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2026

**STATEMENT FROM NYC HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. ALISTER MARTIN ON FEDERAL
APPEALS COURT RESTRICTIONS ON MIFEPRISTONE ORDERS BY MAIL**

NEW YORK, NY — Today, NYC Health Commissioner Dr. Alister Martin issued the following statement in response to a federal appeals court’s decision to impose nationwide restrictions on mifepristone orders by mail:

“This is a troubling step backward for access to essential healthcare. For decades, mifepristone has been safely used for abortion care and miscarriages. This evidence-based medicine is relied on by patients and providers across the country. The court’s decision to limit access to mifepristone is not responding to any new medical evidence. Instead, it’s creating unnecessary barriers that will cause delays in care, increased travel burdens, and confusion for providers. These are not abstract concerns. This will result in real harm for patients navigating personal medical decisions.

“Even as federal actions narrow access, New York City is stepping up. We offer culturally competent support, ensuring that patients can navigate healthcare with clarity and dignity. Mifepristone remains legal and available in-person in New York, including at NYC’s Sexual Health Clinics. Our Abortion Access Hub provides confidential help finding a provider in New York City, scheduling an appointment, getting financial assistance, and finding transportation and lodging. This help is available to everyone, and you do not need to live in New York City to get help accessing care. However, considering this decision, our abortion hub navigators have been advised to not refer patients to telehealth providers at this time.

“The NYC Health Department will continue to operate as a lifeline for anyone seeking care. While court decisions may attempt to restrict access, we will continue to ensure that patients can still obtain the safe, timely care they need.”

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