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PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group

Members will support the Administration on vaccine prioritization, communication, distribution and equity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

10/07/2020

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

MEDIA CONTACT

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Online

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BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration today announced a COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group to advance its efforts to prepare to distribute a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine once it becomes available.

Comprised of medical professionals, public health experts, elected officials, community leaders and infectious disease specialists, the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group will advise the Administration, including the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the COVID-19 Command Center, on communication, distribution, and equity issues relating to a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Commonwealth has actively been working on preparedness and planning for a COVID-19 vaccine since early August. This work builds on and enhances the state's experience in distributing approximately 3 million vaccine doses each year. The group will help inform the planning and preparedness work already underway and further strengthen efforts to successfully and equitably allocate, distribute and administer a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Over the past decade, the Commonwealth has invested in the state-of-the-art Massachusetts Immunization Information System, which serves as the state's vaccine registry, ordering system and inventory mechanism. More than 3,000 provider sites currently report their data to this system, and DPH is actively onboarding an additional 1,000 clinical sites to further enhance the distribution and tracking of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Working closely with DPH leaders, particularly DPH Medical Director Dr. Larry Madoff and DPH Assistant Commissioner Kevin Cranston, members of the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group include (name - place of work):

Dr. Paul Biddinger, Chair - Mass General Brigham

Dr. Barry Bloom - Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Dr. Vincent Chiang - Boston Children's Hospital

Michael Curry, Esq. - Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Dr. Robert Finberg - University of Massachusetts Medical School

State Senator Cindy Friedman - Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

Dr. Marc Lipsitch - Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

State Representative Ronald Mariano – House Majority Leader

Wanda McClain - Brigham and Women's Hospital

Dr. Asif Merchant - Mass Medical Society

Mayor Daniel Rivera - City of Lawrence

Dr. John Rocchio - CVS Health

Dr. David Twitchell - Boston Medical Center

Rev. Liz Walker - Roxbury Presbyterian Church

Phoebe Walker - Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Dr. Simone Wildes - South Shore Hospital

Dr. Sharon Wright - Beth Israel Lahey Health

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Executive Office of Health and Human Services

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The Executive Office of Health and Human Services is the largest secretariat in state government and is comprised of 12 agencies, in addition to 2 soldiers' homes and the MassHealth program. Our efforts are focused on the health, resilience, and independence of the one in four residents of the Commonwealth we serve. Our public health programs touch every community in the Commonwealth.

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Department of Public Health (/orgs/department-of-public-health)

DPH promotes the health and well-being of all residents by ensuring access to high-quality public health and healthcare services, and by focusing on prevention, wellness, and health equity in all people.

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