Press Room

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News Release 8/11/2020: Public Health Association Calls on Governor Baker to Take More Aggressive Public Health Measures to Stop Spread of COVID-19

Boston, MA – In advance of today's announcement from Governor Baker about new measures to contain the rise in cases of COVID-19, Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Public Health Association, released the following statement:

"The recent uptick in COVID-19 infections should cause serious concern for all residents of Massachusetts. We appreciate that Governor Baker has responded with additional actions in the face of the worsening data. But his actions to date fall short of what is needed.

"We call on Governor Baker to act more comprehensively and strategically to address this uptick in cases before a curve turns into spike. With the start of the school year in a few weeks, reducing the case trend now must be the highest priority.

To date, 86 organizations have endorsed the call to action, including leading civil rights, grassroots, public health, medical, labor, and social service organizations.

Read Full Advisory

News Release 3/10/20: Public Health Association to Convene Emergency Task Force on Coronavirus and Equity

The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) announced today that it is convening an **Emergency Task Force on Coronavirus & Equity** to rapidly develop policy recommendations to ensure adequate prevention and response measures for communities that will be disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and its economic repercussions – including low income people, people of color, immigrants, low wage workers, those who are food insecure, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and older adults, among others.

The Task Force will be chaired by **Sandro Galea**, Dean of the Boston University School of Public Health and **Cheryl Bartlett**, CEO of the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center and former commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Preliminary recommendations will be released on **Friday, March 20th at 9am in Room 222 at the State House**.

The Emergency Task Force is being formed in recognition of the inequities likely to be experienced by these populations, and with an understanding that this represents a public health preparedness issue for the entire population.

"From the family in shelter – to the child who depends on getting a healthy breakfast and lunch at school – to immigrants fearful of coming forward because of draconian federal policies – we are only as prepared as our most marginalized communities," said **MPHA Executive Director Carlene Pavlos**. "It is vital that we develop concrete solutions to protect Massachusetts residents who are already burdened with the effects of discrimination, oppression, and poor health. The fate of everyone in our society is bound together – something which is always true but is seldom as crystal clear as it is now."

Task Force members include organizations that represent low-wage workers, immigrants, older adults, emergency food service providers, homelessness service providers, disability advocacy organizations, local health departments, and health care organizations. Policy recommendations will be focused on concrete actions that can be taken by the state legislature, Governor Baker and state Executive Branch agencies.

Postponed Legislative Breakfast on Public Transportation and the Needs of Older Adults – New Date to be Determined

Out of an abundance of caution, we are **POSTPONING** the legislative breakfast that was planned for Friday, March 13, 2020, in Leominster.

If you would like us to notify you when we have set a new dates, please email: Veronica at **vcanas@mapublichealth.org** or call 857-930-4369

Media Advisory: Legislative Breakfast on Public Transportation and the Needs of Older Adults – March 13, 2020

Leominster, MA – On March 13, 2020, community leaders, elected officials, transportation advocates, program managers, public transportation users, and community members will come together for a Legislative Breakfast on transportation and the needs of older adults/seniors. This event will be held from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM at the Veterans' Center, 100 West Street. It is free and open to the public. To RSVP, call 857-930-4369 or click https://tinyurl.com/NorthCentralTranspoMar13.

Read Full Advisory

News Release 11/20/19: MPHA Presents Legislative Leadership Awards to Representatives Garlick and Kane

Boston, MA – Today, the Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) presented Representative Denise Garlick and Representative Hannah Kane with Legislative Leadership Awards in recognition of their commitment to building an effective, efficient, and equitable local public health system.