

November 23, 2020

Governor Charlie Baker

Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

CC: Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito

House of Representatives Speaker Robert DeLeo

Senate President Karen Spilka

Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders

Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan

Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Monica Bharel

Dear Governor Baker,

We, the undersigned municipal and regional public health leaders, are writing to ask that the Commonwealth provide further emergency appropriations to ensure the maintenance of a robust local public health response to COVID-19 well into 2021. Local health departments (LHDs) are on the front lines in fighting to contain the disease. Ensuring they have the funds needed to maintain their capacity until the pandemic is under control is vital for our health and prosperity. For these reasons, **we urge you to quickly pass and implement a second \$15 million package of emergency funding for Local Health Departments (LHDs) before the end of the calendar year.**

As you know, both the state's previous emergency funding provided to LHDs and Federal CARES Act dollars must be spent by the end of 2020. The emergency state funding in particular has proven critical in enabling LHDs to pay for additional nursing and inspectional staff hours. LHD agents, nurses and inspectors have undertaken contract tracing, case investigation, enforcement, outreach, education and flu prevention activities with these funds. The need for LHDs to continue to provide these critical services will not, of course, end with the expiration of current funding streams, that need is only likely to increase given the current rise in COVID infections and the onset of flu season. LHD staff are also facing significant burnout, having, in the vast majority of circumstances, worked without a break, nights and weekends included, since the outset of the crisis. The emergency state funding we request would help LHDs bring in supplementary personnel to provide support for overworked current staff.

Please be aware that we are doing everything in our power to encourage prompt and generous financial relief on the federal level. We recognize that state funding cannot possibly substitute for federal relief. However, it would not be prudent to wait for further federal support or extensions that may not be authorized or expended in a timely manner. A rapid infusion of state funds, made available to cities and towns by January 1, 2021, could go a long way toward helping us through a difficult winter.

Thank you for the support and partnership you have provided cities, towns and LHDs throughout this emergency. Please consider the need for additional support for local public health as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

City of Agawam

William P. Sapelli, Mayor
Kathleen Auer, Health Agent

Town of Amherst

Paul Bokelman, Town Manager
Emma Dragon, Director of Public Health

Town of Andover

Tom Carbone, Director of Public Health

Town of Arlington

Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager

Town of Athol

Deborah Vondal, Health Agent

Town of Bedford

Sarah Stanton, Town Manager

Town of Belmont

Wesley Chin, Health Director

Town of Braintree

Charles C. Kokoros, Mayor

City of Brockton

Robert F. Sullivan, Mayor

Town of Brookline

Melvin A. Kleckner, Town Administrator

Town of Burlington

Paul Sagarino, Town Manager

City of Cambridge

Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager

Town of Chelmsford

Paul Cohen, Town Manager
Sue Rosa, Director of Public Health

City of Chelsea

Thomas G. Ambrosino, Mayor

Town of Danvers

Steve Bartha, Town Manager
Mark Carleo, Director of Public Health

Town of Dennis

Elizabeth Sullivan, Town Administrator
Kristen Keller, Health Director

Town of Dover

Chris Dwelley, Town Administrator

Town of East Longmeadow

Mary McNally, Town Manager
Aimee Petrosky, Health Director

City of Easthampton

Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor
Bri Eichstaedt, Health Agent
Margaret Hebert, Board of Health Chair

City of Everett

Carlo DeMaria, Mayor

Town of Fairhaven

Mark Rees, Mayor

Sarah Dupont, Interim Health Agent

City of Fall River

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

City of Framingham

Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer, Mayor

City of Gardner

Michael Nicholson, Mayor

Lauren Saunders, Director of Public Health

Town of Gill

Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Randy Crochier, Select Board Chair &
Regional Health Agent for the Franklin
Regional Council of Governments

Town of Groveland

Deborah Kadar-Hull, Board of Health Chair

Town of Hadley

Carolyn Brennan, Town Administrator

Greg Mish, Board of Health

Susan Mosler, Board of Health

Town of Hamilton

Joseph J. Domelowicz, Jr., Town Manager

David Smith, Board of Health Chair

Town of Hanson

John Stanbrook, Town Administrator

Theresa A. Cocio, Health Director

Town of Holliston

Travis Ahern, Town Administrator

Scott Moles, Health Agent

City of Holyoke

Alex Morse, Mayor

Sean Gonsalves, Director of Health

Town of Hudson

Thomas Moses, Executive Assistant

Kelli M. Calo, Director of Public and
Community Health

Town of Hull

Philip Lemnios, Town Manager

Town of Ipswich

Anthony Marino, Town Administrator

Susan C. Hubbard, Board of Health Chair

City of Lawrence

Jackie Aguilar, Public Health Nurse

City of Lynn

Thomas M. McGee, Mayor

City of Malden

Gary Christenson, Mayor

Thomas Lieu, Public Health Agent

Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea

Gregory T. Federspiel, Town Administrator

Mary Higgins, Public Health Nurse

Paula Polo-Filias, Board of Health Chair

Town of Mansfield

Kevin Dumas, Town Manager

Amy Donovan, Director of Public Health

Town of Marblehead

Jason Silva, Town Administrator

Andrew Petty, Director of Public Health

Town of Mashpee

Caitlin Cantella, Assistant Public Health Agent
Glen Harrington, Public Health Agent

Town of Maynard

Gregory W. Johnson, Town Administrator

City of Medford

Breanna Lungo-Koehn, Mayor
MaryAnn O'Connor, Health Director

Town of Medway

Beth Hallal, Board of Health Chair

City of Melrose

Paul Brodeur, Mayor

City of Methuen

Neil Perry, Mayor

Town of Middleton

Andrew Sheehan, Town Administrator
Derek Fullerton, Director of Public Health

Town of Mills

John McVeigh, Health Director

Town of Nahant

Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator

City of Newburyport

Donna D. Holaday, Mayor
Frank Giacalone, Director of Public Health

City of Newton

Deborah Youngblood, Director of Health and
Human Services

City of North Adams

Tom Bernard, Mayor

Town of North Andover

Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Town Manager

Town of North Reading

Michael P. Gilleberto, Town Administrator
Bob Bracey, Director of Public Health

Town of Norwood

Tony Mazzucco, Town Manager
Sigalle Reiss, Health Director & President of
the Massachusetts Health Officers Association

City of Pittsfield

Linda M. Tyer, Mayor

Town of Provincetown

Morgan Clark, Director of Health

Town of Randolph

Brian P. Howard, Town Manager

Town of Reading

Robert W. LeLacheur, Jr. CFA, Town Manager
Peter Mirandi, Interim Public Health Director

Town of Rehobeth

Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator

City of Revere

Brian M. Arrigo, Mayor

Town of Rochester

Suzanne Szyndlar, Town Administrator
Karen A. Walega, Health Director

Town of Rockport

Bruce Cohen, Board of Health Chair
Leslie Whelan, Health Agent

City of Salem

Kimberley Driscoll, Mayor
David Greenbaum, Director of Public Health
Dr. Jeremy Schiller, Board of Health Chair

Town of Saugus

Scott C. Crabtree, Town Manager

Town of Somerset

Richard Brown, Town Administrator

Town of South Hadley

Michael J. Sullivan, Town Administrator
Gerald A. Judge, Board of Health

Town of Southwick

Karl Stinehart, Chief Administrative Officer
Tammy Spencer, Health Director

Town of Sutton

James A. Smith, Town Manager
Cheryl Rawlinski, Public Health Director

Town of Swansea

Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator
Emily Lachance, Public Health Nurse
Zackary Seabury, Director of Public Health

Town of Tewksbury

Susan Sawyer, Director of Public Health

Town of Truro

Jamie Calise, Interim Town Manager
Tracey Rose, Board of Health Chair

Town of Tyngsborough

Sheila Perrault, Board of Health Chair

Town of Uxbridge

Steven A. Sette, Town Manager
Diane Legere, Health Agent

Town of Walpole

James A. Johnson, Town Administrator
Melissa Ranieri, Health Director

City of Waltham

Jeanette A. McCarthy, Mayor
Michelle Feeley, Director of Public Health

Town of Wayland

Louise Miller, Town Administrator
Julia Junghaans, Director of Public Health
Ruth Mori, Public Health Nurse

Town of Wendell

Barbara Craddock, Board of Health Chair

Town of Wenham

Anthony Ansaldi, Town Administrator

Town of West Newbury

Angus Jennings, Town Administrator
Robert Janes, Board of Health Chair
Paul Seigny, Health Agent

Town of Westford

Jeff Stephens, Director of Public Health

Town of Weston

Leon A. Gaumond Jr., Town Manager

City of Weymouth

Robert L. Hedlund, Mayor
Daniel McCormack, Health Department
Director

Town of Winchester

Lisa Wong, Town Manager

Jennifer Murphy, MPH, Director of Public Health

Town of Wrentham

Kevin Sweet, Town Administrator

Town of Yarmouth

Daniel M. Knapik, Town Administrator

Massachusetts Public Health Association

Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director