



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

December 15, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Charles D. Baker, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Massachusetts COVID-19 Action Plan

Dear Governor Baker:

Thank you for your decision, announced earlier this week, to distribute free COVID-19 at-home rapid tests to 102 communities in the Commonwealth. Given the arrival of the Omicron variant, the continued presence of the Delta variant, the ongoing surge in COVID transmission, and hospitals at or near capacity with over 1,000 Bay Staters hospitalized due to the virus, free and accessible at-home testing is a welcome development.

Unfortunately, experts confirm that testing is not enough. Our constituents and communities need a multi-pronged approach to combat COVID-19 and protect public health, especially through these colder months.

The attached Massachusetts COVID-19 Action Plan, prepared by epidemiologists, health care providers, public health experts, and frontline community leaders, details nine necessary policy measures for mitigating COVID. More than 100 health professionals and frontline community leaders as well as 36 organizations endorse these mitigation measures, including:

1. Achieving higher vaccination rates, including first and booster doses;
2. Enhancing access to free COVID testing;
3. Establishing a data-driven statewide indoor mask policy, consistent with CDC recommendations that everyone age 2 and older wear masks indoors in areas of high or substantial transmission;
4. Implementing infection control and safety measures in workplaces;
5. Protecting against COVID spread in homes through stronger housing policy;

6. Stopping transmission in schools by complying with U.S. Department of Education guidance and CDC and AAP guidance for masking in schools, providing children with high quality masks, and other measures;
7. Establishing and maintaining effective communication with frontline communities;
8. Supporting frontline community members using safer methods; and
9. Investing in local public health.

Each of these data-driven mitigation measures is described more fully in the Massachusetts COVID-19 Action Plan. We urge you to expediently implement these mitigation measures to keep our kids in schools, our families safe, our businesses open, and our communities supported.

Yours in service,

Senator Becca Rausch
Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex

Senator Harriette L. Chandler
First Worcester

Senator Adam Hinds
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden

Senator Jason Lewis
Fifth Middlesex

Representative Ruth B. Balser
12th Middlesex

Representative Mike Connolly
26th Middlesex

Representative Tami Gouveia
14th Middlesex

Representative Jim Hawkins
2nd Bristol

State Representative David LeBoeuf
17th Worcester

Representative Liz Miranda
5th Suffolk

Representative Tram T. Nguyen
18th Essex

Representative Maria Robinson
6th Middlesex

Representative Lindsay Sabadosa
1st Hampshire

Representative Erika Uytterhoeven
27th Middlesex

cc: Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services