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**TOWN OF DEDHAM**  
Select Board

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February 16, 2021

Governor Charlie Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
24 Beacon Street  
Office of the Governor, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

The COVID Pandemic has brought with it an unprecedented set of challenges at the State and Local level. In Dedham we have been deeply appreciative for the tremendous support the town has received from State Government throughout the pandemic and wish to extend our sincere gratitude.

The recent Emergency Use Authorization of several vaccines to COVID-19 represents a significant positive step in the pandemic, but also raises a new set of unprecedented challenges for the state regarding the distribution of the vaccine. The health and safety of the Commonwealth as well as the recovery of our economy are very dependent on getting as many individuals vaccinated as quickly as supply allows. The Town of Dedham believes that we can be a valuable ally to the state in this process.

We believe distributing vaccine through local municipalities is a critical and thus far underutilized tool that can be an important piece in the battle against COVID-19. In Dedham we stand ready, willing and able to assist the state and we humbly ask for immediate attention to this critical matter. The Town and specifically the Health Department has made extensive preparations to administer vaccine to Dedham's residents over the past few months. On Saturday, February 6 the Town held an extremely successful mass vaccination event which resulted in around 400 Dedham senior citizens getting their first dose of vaccine.

We are ready and capable to continue to further assist in the tremendous undertaking of vaccinating the citizens of Dedham on a local level if the state will supply us with more vaccine. We believe we know our community well and can get the vaccine to the most high-risk individuals who are desperate for it. We also believe that while it is important to vaccinate seniors over 75, the medical evidence clearly indicates that many high-risk individuals with very serious medical comorbidities such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, immunosuppression and obesity also desperately require vaccination as soon as possible even if

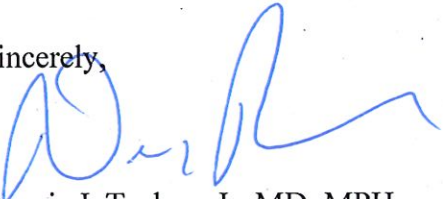
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under 75. We have been limited in our capabilities to assist the cause by both low supply from the state and the restrictions on vaccinating high risk individuals who are under 75.

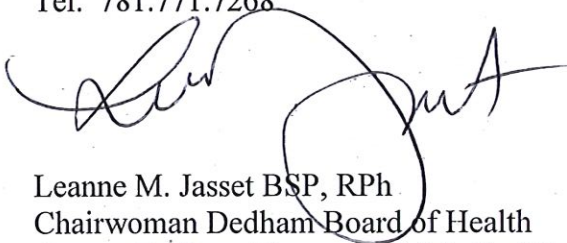
As Chairman and Chairwoman of the Select Board and the Dedham Board of Health as well as a practicing Physician and Pharmacist, we politely and respectfully ask the State to supply us with a greater number of vaccine and to allow us to identify and vaccinate high risk individuals in our community regardless of age as soon as possible. Like many local municipalities, we are extremely well prepared to be an ally to the Commonwealth in this endeavor but have not been afforded an adequate supply of vaccine to maximize our ability to assist in the cause.

We respectfully invite you to visit our vaccination clinic this Thursday (2/18) at the Endicott Estate in Dedham between 10-2 where we will be conducting vaccinations for seniors in Dedham. There you will be able to see first-hand the extensive preparations the town has made so it can help the Commonwealth in its efforts to distribute vaccine. Thank you so much for your time and continued diligent efforts in the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Teehan, Jr. MD, MPH  
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Primary Care Physician Steward Dedham Primary Care  
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