To: All MPS Staff
Fr: Dr. Marice Edouard-Vincent
Cc: Toni Wray; MaryAnn O’Connor
Date: March 3, 2021

Re: Update on K-12 Teachers and Staff COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts in Massachusetts

This morning Gov. Charlie Baker announced a timeline by which educators in K-12 schools as well as early education and care providers will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. We are circulating this memo to provide you with the most updated information that we have. Our Health Services Department is in continuous consultation with the City of Medford Board of Health about opportunities for K-12 staff vaccination. We will continue to keep you informed as soon as we have more information.

Pursuant to Gov. Baker’s announcement, beginning next Thursday March 11th, K-12 and early childhood educators, child care workers, and K-12 school staff will become eligible to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments. The expansion of the state’s program to include educators in these groups is a continuation of the state’s program that currently includes individuals over the age of 65 and individuals with certain medical conditions. According to the governor’s announcement, eligible individuals may book appointments starting on March 11th at any of the 170 sites open to eligible residents in Massachusetts by visiting www.mass.gov/covidvaccinemap. Please note that a message sent to us this morning from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health stated the following:

Due to a severely constrained federal supply and the existing population that is currently eligible for vaccines, it is estimated that it will take a month for all eligible individuals to secure a first appointment. This timeframe is only subject to change if federal supply increases dramatically, including the recently authorized Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

As part of a federal partnership with retail pharmacies, COVID-19 vaccinations may be available to K-12 educators and staff sooner, although we have no new information on this front. CVS Pharmacy has recently added K-12 teachers and staff to their list of eligible participants in their COVID-19 program. While their website does not currently include available appointments, it also states that individuals should check back regularly. Any staff who are veterans of the Armed Forces who are registered with the Veterans Administration may have opportunities to obtain a vaccine through separate VA programs that are running concurrently with those being facilitated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Earlier in the state’s vaccination efforts, the Commonwealth made vaccines available to local health officials for certain essential workers. As of now, we have not yet been notified by the Commonwealth of additional vaccine supply that would allow for a locally based vaccination clinic to be stood up at the municipal level for K-12 staff. In the event that changes due to increases in the vaccine supply, we will notify staff of that opportunity. But as of now, neither the city nor the school department has additional information beyond what has been reported in the media and what is being shared in this memo.