



Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc.
P.O. Box 1036, Westford, MA 01886-0097

Chief Michael Newbury
President
Phone: 781-941-1120

Chief Michael Winn
1st Vice President
Phone: 508-957-8230

Chief James Vuona
2nd Vice President
Phone: 508-841-8544

Chief Dennis Condon
Immediate Past President
781-455-7580

Chief William P. Scoble, Ret
Governmental Affairs Director
Phone: 617-759-5777
FCAMGAD@gmail.com

Chief Eugene W. Doherty, Ret
Governmental Affairs Director
Phone: 781-706-0703
FCAMGAD2@gmail.com

Chief John E. Parow, Ret
Secretary/Treasurer
Phone: 978-330-2700
FCAMSEC@comcast.net

Executive Office of Health and Human Services
One Ashburton Place, 11th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

February 18, 2021

Secretary Sudders:

The Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, is compelled to report to you the frustration reverberating throughout our association, and coming from all corners of the Commonwealth, regarding the latest DPH update on local efforts to provide vaccination.

Following the early guidance of DPH, many communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have already embarked on a joint effort with their local Boards of Health and their respective fire departments, to participate in the roll out of vaccine to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. These collaborative efforts have resulted in completion of Phase 1 of the roll out plan and in some instances, Part 1 of Phase 2 effort, has also been completed. Since that time, a lack of communication with local Emergency Managers has caused confusion in communities across the Commonwealth. We still believe we are best positioned to assist with the phase 2 vaccinations of teachers, Public Works personnel and the most vulnerable populations at the local level. For years, communities have prepared, planned and trained to handle a pandemic, and all those efforts are now being ignored.

The correspondence provided by your office and issued February 17, states that after March 1, 2021 there will be no more delivery of vaccine to local authorities. Our membership sees this as simply unacceptable as these collaborative efforts are already in place in most communities and have a greater chance of vaccinating the most vulnerable population than the mass vaccination sites. Simply stated, the locals know the locals best.

We understand the role that mass vaccination sites will provide to the Commonwealth and we support that model. However, we are asking you to please reconsider the current plan to stop delivery of vaccination to local municipalities who have been and continue to be, doing the great work necessary to continue to protect their communities. We understand that there is a need and place for the Mass vaccination sites, but you should understand there is a great need for us to be able to reach most vulnerable populations at the local level.

"United to Face the Future"

In closing, the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts continues to stand ready to support the Department of Public Health and the Commonwealth's response to this pandemic. Releasing vaccine to local communities is a must so that local public officials can ensure that all of our residents are vaccinated, including the most vulnerable and underserved population.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Newbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and the last name "Newbury" clearly visible.

Michael Newbury
President FCAM

c.c.
Governor Charles Baker
Lt. Governor Karyn Polito