

April 17, 2020

Governor Charlie Baker  
Secretary Marylou Sudders  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House

We are writing as members of the Task Force on Coronavirus & Equity to ask you to continue the state's progress on data collection and reporting to understand the equity impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic in Massachusetts, as well as to implore you to prioritize action to address inequities that are becoming ever more clear.

The Task Force on Coronavirus & Equity was convened exactly one month ago to identify and promote

the state, more than 60% of cases and deaths are missing this data, leaving major gaps in our understanding. The Public Health Order of April 8<sup>th</sup> clarifies that health care providers should make every effort to collect race and ethnicity. It also states that DPH will issue guidance to those entities ordering and providing tests, yet this guidance has not yet been released. The order was issued 8 days ago, yet the percentage of cases with missing race/ethnicity data has not improved significantly. It is essential that the Administration provide more resources and guidance – and most importantly, urgency – to improve these numbers.

Include additional demographic factors in data collection and reporting, so that we can understand the full scope of potential inequities. Past experience and anecdotal evidence strongly suggest that inequities are present across other demographic factors, including socio-economic status, disability, language, and occupation and industry, among others. Without these data, we are in the dark about the nature of these inequities and therefore limited in our ability to take strategic action.

Provide testing numbers by municipality, disaggregated by race/ethnicity and other demographic factors. Current reporting only provides insights into confirmed cases and deaths. However, we are concerned about equitable access to testing, particularly in communities of color. We ask that you provide the number of tests conducted by municipality of residence, and we ask that you disaggregate these numbers by race/ethnicity, sex, age, socioe

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