

# Emergency Task Force on Coronavirus & Equity

March 20, 2020

The outbreak of COVID-19 is not impacting Massachusetts residents equally. Communities that are already facing marginalization are being hardest hit by the virus and its economic repercussions, starkly exposing inequities across Massachusetts and the nation driven by racism, poverty, and xenophobia.

**WE MUST TAKE DRAMATIC AND IMMEDIATE ACTION TO MITIGATE THESE IMPACTS. WE CALL ON OUR STATE LEADERS TO ACT NOW!**

**1**

**Ensure Immigrants Have Safe Access to Testing & Treatment**

**2**

**Ensure Everyone Has Access to Safe Quarantine**

**3**

**Pass Emergency Paid Sick Time**

**4**

**Enact a Moratorium on Evictions, Foreclosures & Termination of Public Benefits**

The Task Force recognizes that these recommendations are not comprehensive and do not address all populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. As the Task Force continues its work, we will issue further recommendations and will lift up the leadership of other coalitions leading the way on related issues.

➔ [mapublichealth.org/COVID19Equity/](https://mapublichealth.org/COVID19Equity/)



 [MAPublicHealth](#)

 [ActionforAHealthyMass](#)

# Urgent Policy Recommendations

*To Governor Baker, Attorney General Healey & the Legislature:*

## **ENSURE IMMIGRANTS HAVE SAFE ACCESS TO TESTING & TREATMENT**

Draconian federal immigration policies, inflamed antipathy toward immigrants, and scapegoating of Asian Americans have sown fear and mistrust in many immigrant communities. We call on Governor Baker and the Attorney General to aggressively communicate that all residents will have access to testing and treatment regardless of immigration status, that medical and social service providers may not share patients' information with federal immigration enforcement authorities, and that testing and treatment will not negatively impact immigrants under the federal "Public Charge" rule. The Legislature should allocate funds for trusted community organizations and community media to lead outreach campaigns.

*To Governor Baker and the Legislature:*

## **ENSURE EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO SAFE QUARANTINE**

Homeless shelters and other congregate facilities are already at capacity and will be unable to implement physical distancing recommendations, dramatically increasing the risk of rapid transmission of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness and others without safe access to quarantine. We call on Governor Baker to direct the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and other state agencies to immediately identify alternative sites for safe, dignified quarantine for those without safe access. And we call on the Legislature to allocate the needed resources to support this response.

*To the Legislature:*

## **PASS EMERGENCY PAID SICK TIME**

As parents remain home to care for children out of school, workers face lengthy quarantines, and businesses lay off or reduce hours of their employees, we must ensure all residents have access to Emergency Paid Sick Time. We call on the legislature to guarantee all workers at least 15 additional days of job-protected paid sick time for immediate use during the outbreak or for any future public health emergency.

*To the Legislature:*

## **ENACT A MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS, FORECLOSURES & TERMINATION OF PUBLIC BENEFITS**

The outbreak is putting tremendous economic strain on many residents. Without a safe place to call home or access to the basic necessities of life, residents will face far greater risk of infection, overall poorer health, and spiraling economic insecurity. We call on the Legislature and Governor Baker to enact a moratorium on all evictions and foreclosure during and in the aftermath of this crisis, as well as a moratorium on termination of public benefits such as SNAP, MassHealth, disability benefits, and access to shelter.

**Endorse the Recommendations**  
<https://tinyurl.com/COVID19equity>

# These recommendations are endorsed by the following organizations.

1199SEIU MA  
1Shot Couriers Inc.  
About Fresh  
ACLU of MA  
Action for Boston Community Development  
All Farmers  
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative  
American Federation of Teachers MA  
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission  
Boston Center for Independent Living  
Boston University School of Public Health  
Brazilian Worker Center Inc.  
Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation  
Central West Justice Center  
Children's HealthWatch  
Chinese Progressive Association  
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association  
Clean Plate Law  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition for Social Justice  
Collaborative for Educational Services  
Conservation Law Foundation  
DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement  
Environmental League of MA  
Fallon Health  
Greater Boston Food Bank  
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization  
Greater Lowell Health Alliance of CHNA 10  
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center  
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative  
Groundwork Lawrence  
Groundwork Southcoast  
Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health  
Health Care For All  
Health Leads  
Health Resources in Action  
Healthcare & Human Service Consulting Group  
Hildreth Institute  
Homes for Families  
Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc.  
Jamaica Plain Progressives  
Jane Doe Inc., the MA Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence  
Jetpac  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Lawrence CommunityWorks  
Lawyers for Civil Rights  
MA Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
MA Association for Community Action  
MA Association of Community Development Corporations  
MA Association of Community Health Workers  
MA Association of Health Boards  
MA Budget and Policy Center  
MA Coalition for the Homeless  
MA Communities Action Network  
MA Councils on Aging  
MA Food System Collaborative  
MA Health & Hospital Association  
MA Housing & Shelter Alliance  
MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
MA Jobs with Justice  
MA Law Reform Institute  
MA League of Community Health Centers  
MA Public Health Association  
MA Teachers Association  
MA Voter Table  
MassCOSH (MA Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health)  
Material Aid and Advocacy Program  
Mill City Grows  
MLPB (f/k/a Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston)  
National Association of Social Workers, MA Chapter  
Neighbor to Neighbor MA  
New England United 4 Justice  
Northeastern University Public Health Program  
One Fair Wage  
Progressive MA  
Project Bread  
Public Health Institute of Western MA  
SEIU 32BJ  
SEIU 888  
SEIU Local 509  
Sierra Club MA  
Stavros Center for Independent Living  
Sustainable CAPE - Center for Agricultural Preservation & Education  
The Food Bank of Western MA  
The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.  
The Open Door  
Three Pyramids Minority Coalition  
Toxics Action Center  
TSNE  
Tufts Health Plan  
Western MA Health Equity Network  
Western MA Network to End Homelessness  
Worcester County Food Bank, Inc  
Worcester Interfaith