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/
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 for 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