

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Public Health Association Calls on Governor Baker to Correct
Inaccurate Statements**

Claim of Consultation and Endorsement of MPHA Inaccurate

Boston, MA – Today, the Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) called for a correction to a statement made by Governor Charlie Baker at his press conference yesterday. During the press conference, between the 14 minute and 15 minute marks on the video recording, Governor Baker discussed the state’s guidance to communities regarding returning to in-person school. He stated, “This guidance was developed and endorsed by the Massachusetts Academy of Pediatrics and the Massachusetts Public Health Association.” This statement is entirely inaccurate. MPHA was not involved in any way in developing the guidelines, and we have not endorsed them.

“We want to be clear that we had no involvement in the development of those guidelines,” said Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director of MPHA. “We have also not endorsed them as they are not sufficiently nuanced or inclusive of health and safety concerns for students, teachers and the community. In fact, since March we have repeatedly asked to meet with Governor Baker or a staff member from the Governor’s office, but we have received no reply.”

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The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a nonprofit organization that promotes a healthy Massachusetts through advocacy, community organizing, and coalition building. We are leaders in the movement to create health equity by addressing the root causes of health and wellness. We promote policies that impact the major drivers of health outcomes, such as access to healthy food, safe affordable housing, and transportation. We also advocate for equitable public health services throughout the Commonwealth. To learn more, visit www.mapublichealth.org.