

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2021

Contact:

Carlene Pavlos, Massachusetts Public Health Association
857-302-7023; cpavlos@mapublichealth.org

**Civil Rights, Immigrant Justice, and Public Health Leaders to Launch “Vaccine Equity Now! Coalition,”
Issue Five Demands to Governor Baker**

WHEN and WHERE:

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 1:30 PM, Online

Via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/VaccineEquityNow>

WHAT:

This Tuesday 2/17/21, a coalition of civil rights and immigrant justice leaders, together with elected officials and public health experts, will launch the “Vaccine Equity Now! Coalition.” The coalition will call attention to the dramatic racial inequities in the vaccine rollout and will issue five demands to Governor Charlie Baker to immediately address these inequities.

WHO:

Speakers will include:

- Eva Millona, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, *event co-chair*
- Dr. Atyia Martin, Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition, *event co-chair*
- Carlene Pavlos, Massachusetts Public Health Association, *event co-chair*
- Helena DaSilva-Hughes, Immigrants Assistance Center
- Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, Lawyers for Civil Rights
- State Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz
- State Representative Liz Miranda

The coalition is comprised of the following organizations:

- ACLU Massachusetts
- Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition
- Immigrants Assistance Center
- King Boston
- La Colaborativa
- Lawyers for Civil Rights
- Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
- Massachusetts Public Health Association
- NAACP, New England Area Conference
- Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA
- Union of Minority Neighborhoods

WHY:

For over a year, the COVID-19 pandemic in Massachusetts and across the nation has been characterized by dramatic racial inequities across cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. But now with vaccines finally available, White residents have received the vast majority of the state’s vaccine doses. As of last week, White residents had received 12 times more doses than Black residents and 16 times more doses than Latinx residents.

###