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**Vaccine Equity Now! Coalition Calls on Governor Baker to Allocate 20% of Johnson & Johnson Doses to Hardest Hit Communities**

**BOSTON, MA** – Vaccine Equity Now! Coalition Co-Chairs Dr. Atyia Martin of the Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition, Eva Millona of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, and Carlene Pavlos of the Massachusetts Public Health Association today issued the following statement in response to Governor Baker’s announcement that Massachusetts will be receiving an additional 100,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine in the next week.

“The additional supply of 100,000 Johnson & Johnson doses is a major, positive development for Massachusetts’ vaccine rollout that will help increase access to these lifesaving shots. However, we urge the Governor to center equity in his allocation of the doses. Governor Baker should use this as an opportunity to follow through on his previous commitments and allocate at least 20% of these doses to Massachusetts’ hardest hit communities. Since the Johnson & Johnson vaccine only requires one shot, these doses will be particularly impactful for people in our communities who have limited mobility or are homebound – particularly BIPOC and immigrant residents that have been vaccinated at lower rates than white residents.”

The Vaccine Equity Now! Coalition includes more than 30 racial justice, immigrant justice, civil rights and public health organizations from across Massachusetts. In February, they issued five demands for Governor Baker to ensure Massachusetts’ vaccine rollout is equitable. Last week, they sent a letter to the Governor requesting an urgent meeting to discuss their outstanding questions and concerns.

The most recent state data show that white residents have received 14.7 times more doses than Black residents, 14.1 times more doses than Latinx residents, and 16.8 times more doses than Asian residents. Put another way, 29.4% of white residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine compared to 19.5% of Black residents, 17.6% of Asian residents and 12.1% of Latinx residents. These inequities are particularly pronounced in Massachusetts’ hardest hit communities. For example, in Lawrence, 82% of the population is Latinx but only 4% of Latinx residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine. White residents make up just 12% of Lawrence’s population but 63% have received at least one dose.###

