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Dear Aging Services Network Partners,

I hope this letter finds you well and preparing for the holiday season. **I am writing to ask for your help reaching older adults who have not yet received their COVID-19 booster shot.** You were vital in our efforts to get older people vaccinated during the early months of vaccine distribution allowing for Massachusetts to be a national leader in vaccination rates for older people and the general population. You reached out to older people in your networks and assisted with scheduling and transportation to appointments. **We are asking you to do the same for boosters.**

Today, less than half of those who are age 65 and older who have completed their initial series and are eligible for a booster have received one. It is critical that we work together to increase these numbers and protect our older adults.

We know that **boosters are the best way to stay safe and prevent hospitalization from COVID-19** if an individual received the initial series at least 6 months ago for the Pfizer and Moderna or at least 2 months ago for Johnson & Johnson Janssen.

We also know that individuals ages 65 and older who received their vaccine during the early months of vaccine distribution may be **experiencing waning effects of immunity.** It is **strongly recommended that all individuals schedule an appointment for a booster as soon as possible** if they have not gotten one already.

Massachusetts residents can access booster doses from more than 1,000 locations, with appointments available now across the Commonwealth. CDC recommendations allow for mixing and matching of different COVID-19 booster doses, and individuals may choose which

vaccine they receive as a booster dose. It is recommended that residents with questions about which booster is right for them should consult their health care provider.

This [Booster Eligibility Graphic](#) may be helpful for your outreach efforts. **To schedule an appointment:**

1. **Visit the Vaxfinder** tool at vaxfinder.mass.gov for a full list of locations to receive a booster. Residents can narrow results to search for locations that are offering boosters. Many locations will be booking appointments out weeks in advance.
2. **For individuals who are unable to use Vaxfinder, or have difficulty accessing the internet**, the COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line can help schedule appointments by **calling 2-1-1** and following the prompts for assistance (Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday 9AM-2PM). The COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and has translators available in approximately 100 additional languages.

Vaccines are widely available across the Commonwealth and are **the best way to keep everyone safe, especially heading into the holiday season.**

COVID-19 boosters are safe, effective, and free. Individuals do not need an ID or health insurance to access a booster, and do not need to show a vaccine card. **Additional information on the COVID-booster, including FAQs, can be found at mass.gov/COVID19booster.**

Thank you for your help and your continued commitment to keeping older people and their caregivers safe!

With gratitude,



Elizabeth C. Chen, PhD, MBA, MPH
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