

March 12, 2020

Good afternoon Governor Baker:

We have been grateful for your steady leadership during this incredibly trying time. We are all working around the clock to address the critical challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapidly changing circumstances have been confusing and alarming.

Over 30 communities from the metropolitan Boston region met today to discuss a regional response to the pandemic. There was broad agreement that your continued leadership is of paramount importance. We feel strongly that if each municipality is left to respond to the crisis on their own, this ad hoc response will generate panic and confusion among our residents.

Consistent with guidance received from infectious disease specialists and medical experts, we therefore encourage you to take immediate action to close schools and other buildings, both public and private, where people congregate in close proximity. We urge you to give guidance to cities and towns about the ongoing operations of community centers, public housing, libraries, senior centers, and continuity of municipal government. Facilities should be closed until they can open again safely from a public health perspective. We are deeply committed to staying ahead of this threat, undertaking important preventative measures, and ensuring the best possible public health outcomes for our residents. We are eager to partner with you to reduce complications and fatality rates associated with the spread of the virus.

We are poised to take immediate regional action such as closing our schools, but we are urging you to take continued leadership at the state level.

Joe Curtatone

Mayor of Somerville
Chair, Metro Mayors Coalition

Adam Chapdelaine

Town Manager of Arlington

Mike Cahill

Mayor of Beverly

Charles Kokoros

Mayor of Braintree

Mel Kleckner

Town Administrator of Brookline

Lou DePasquale

City Manager of Cambridge

Thomas G Ambrosino

City Manager of Chelsea

Carlo DeMaria

Mayor of Everett

Dr. Yvonne Spicer

Mayor of Framingham

Joe Domelowicz

Town Manager of Hamilton

Jim Molloy

Town Manager of Lexington

Tom McGee
Mayor of Lynn

Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Mayor of Medford

Andy Sheehan
Town Manager of Middleton

Brian Arrigo
Mayor of Revere

Lisa Wong
Town Manager of Winchester

Scott Galvin
Mayor of Woburn

Gary Christenson
Mayor of Malden

Paul Brodeur
Mayor of Melrose

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor of Newton

Anthony Ansaldi
Town Administrator of Wenham

Austin Faison
Town Manager of Winthrop