



Media Release
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**Town of Falmouth Calls on Governor Baker
to Distribute More Vaccine to Cape Cod**

Barnstable County, in partnership with Cape towns, has facilities, staff and volunteers to deliver more vaccine than is being received from the MA Department of Public Health. There are an estimated 27,000 individuals age 75 or over on the Cape of which 4,807 are Falmouth residents. Yet the County is told to expect only 975 doses per week from the Commonwealth for all of Cape Cod. There are some additional vaccines available through community health centers, pharmacies and grocery stores but to date those numbers have fallen well short of the need. County and municipal officials have been unable to find out how many doses will be available at the pharmacies and grocery stores so they are unable to get an accurate picture of when the community will receive enough doses for the population currently eligible under step one of Phase 2 of the state vaccination plan.

“The current allocation of vaccines to the Cape Cod region is woefully inadequate and completely unacceptable,” said Falmouth Health Agent Scott McGann. The Town worked with Barnstable County and the Medical Reserve Corps to set up a clinic at the Barnstable County Fairgrounds that could vaccinate 600 individuals per day but due to the lack of vaccine it has only been open for one day and is not scheduled to receive any more first-dose vaccines through the end of the February.

The websites that must be used to register for vaccination appointments in the state are cumbersome and difficult for many seniors to navigate but the Town of Falmouth is prepared to assist residents to overcome that hurdle. Town Manager Julian M. Suso charged staff in several departments to set up a hotline to register Falmouth residents who are not able to complete the online registration process on their own. “Our staff worked diligently to set up a phone line that can be answered by as many as 10 employees at once and we are ready to start taking calls but until there is a substantial increase in vaccine availability there is little point in opening up a hotline only to tell our residents that all the appointments are already booked,” said Mr. Suso.

The Town would welcome a mass vaccination site on Cape Cod. If that is not in the cards, the Commonwealth must allocate a much larger portion of available doses to this region. It is unreasonable to think that our residents over the age of 75 will be able to drive an hour or more to get to the nearest mass vaccination site. “We have capacity to vaccinate eligible residents locally in a matter of weeks with the County, the towns of Cape Cod, Medical Reserve Corps, VNA, Cape Cod Healthcare, community health centers, pharmacies and grocery stores all ready, willing and able to meet the demand,” said Mr. McGann. “The state should be allocating at least 5,000 doses per week to this region.”

For More Information:

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