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Memorandum

TO: Licensed Rest Homes

FROM: Elizabeth Kelley, MBA, MPH, Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

SUBJECT: Rest Home COVID-19 Booster/Third Vaccination Dose Incentive Payment

DATE: January 4, 2022

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work with state, federal and local partners on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and we continue to appreciate the essential role you have in responding to this evolving situation.

In response to the ongoing risks of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in long-term care facilities, DPH continues to implement measures to protect long-term care facility staff and residents against the spread of COVID-19. Vaccinating long-term care facility residents, staff, and visitors against COVID-19 is a crucial step in preventing the spread of COVID-19

To encourage uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine third dose and vaccine booster dose, DPH will provide a one-time payment of \$2,000 for rest homes that meet established criteria related to staff uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine third dose and booster dose by January 31, 2022. Rest homes are expected and encouraged to implement measures to incent staff uptake to meet the criteria, described below. This one-time payment may be used to offset costs to rest homes for those measures to incentivize COVID-19 vaccine third dose and booster dose uptake among rest home staff.

This memorandum applies to DPH licensed rest homes.

To qualify for this one-time payment, a rest home must meet the following criteria by January 31, 2022:

- At least 75% of the facility's eligible staff members have received a COVID-19 vaccine third dose or booster dose.

“Eligible staff members” are those individuals defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as being eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine third dose or booster dose and who are staff of the facility as of January 31, 2022.

Rest homes that meet the above criteria will receive a one-time payment of \$2,000. DPH will determine whether a rest home qualifies for this payment based on the total cumulative COVID-19 vaccine third doses and booster dose vaccination data reported to the Health Care Facility Reporting System (HCFRS) through January 31, 2022. DPH will use the data submitted to HCFRS to determine total staff at each rest home as of January 31, 2022, for purposes of calculating the percent of eligible staff who have received a COVID-19 vaccine third dose or booster dose.

DPH continues to work with long-term care facilities to ensure access to the COVID-19 vaccine. DPH is working with licensed pharmacies that service long-term care facilities to distribute COVID-19 vaccine booster doses. Additionally, Rapid Response Teams are available to go on site to the rest home to administer COVID-19 booster doses to eligible residents and staff. Additional information can be found here: [COVID-19 Booster Dose Vaccination Guidance](#).