



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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May 14th, 2020

Governor Charles D. Baker  
Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House, Room 280,  
Boston, MA, 02133

Secretary Marylou Sudders  
Secretary, Health and Human Services  
One Ashburton Place,  
Boston, MA, 02108

Dear Governor Baker and Secretary Sudders:

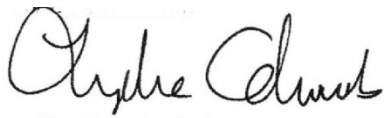
We are writing to urge you to enact legislation that would presume any healthcare worker who contracts the coronavirus (COVID-19) be presumed to have acquired the virus at work or in the course of work-related activities. Our healthcare professionals are at the frontline of this pandemic serving the public, and it is important that they have occupational presumption if they contract COVID-19.

There have been reports of our healthcare workers performing duties with limited Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), along with concerns regarding triage and separating patients, lack of communications about testing, and healthcare workers having to use crowded shuttle buses to commute. All of these conditions make our healthcare workers susceptible to the virus while on the job, yet they are still bravely taking these risks in order to save lives. It is therefore only fair that we enact legislation that would give our healthcare workers occupational presumption that would further protect them.

It is disheartening to hear reports that multiple hospital administrators insist that healthcare workers who got infected by COVID-19 acquired the virus in the community, and not from their job treating patients. We know that in the State House, S. 2602/ H. 4611, "An Act Relative to Emergency Hazard Health Duty" was filed to address occupational presumption, but it does not include all healthcare workers, such as respiratory therapists, medical imaging professionals, nor other workers at healthcare facilities who have been repeatedly exposed to the virus. A more expansive legislation is therefore needed to protect all of our healthcare workers who are at the frontline of this pandemic.

We hope that you will continue to work with our legislators and advocates to provide occupational presumption and comprehensive protections to our healthcare workers.

Sincerely,



Lydia Edwards  
Boston City Councilor, District 1



Ed Flynn  
Boston City Councilor, District 2



Frank Baker  
Boston City Councilor, District 3



Andrea Campbell  
Boston City Councilor, District 4



Ricardo Arroyo  
Boston City Councilor, District 5



Matt O'Malley  
Boston City Councilor, District 6



Kim Janey  
Boston City Councilor, District 7



Kenzie Bok  
Boston City Councilor, District 8




Elizabeth Breadon  
Boston City Councilor, District 9



Annissa Essaibi-George  
Boston City Councilor, At-Large



Michael Flaherty  
Boston City Councilor, At-Large



Julia Mejia  
Boston City Councilor, At-Large



Michelle Wu  
Boston City Councilor, At-Large