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Dear Colleagues,

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has informed the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) that it is interested in partnering with the MDS in the Commonwealth's roll-out efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to dental professionals. I applaud this outreach. This is a major positive development, as the MDS has worked relentlessly to advocate for and lobby on behalf of dental professionals to receive vaccinations and up to this point, the state has not been forthcoming with related information, causing great frustration for us all. This partnership is the result of the very hard work and efforts of your MDS leaders and is a big step forward in ensuring that dental professionals have access to the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible. This will help accelerate the pace of vaccine administration to dental professionals and move us closer to putting an end to this pandemic.

Dental professionals have played a pivotal role in keeping patients healthy and safe throughout this crisis. Despite our vigilance, dentists and our staff are vulnerable to this disease by the mere nature of what we do on a daily basis. We are under continual threat of contracting the virus given the high risk of our exposure to aerosols, so we must make vaccines available as soon as possible.

The MDS is currently ironing out the details of how this partnership will work and what the next steps will entail. The MDS will continue to communicate details on this DPH partnership and any potential distribution process and corresponding timeline. We hope that updates to the roll-out plan will come quickly—so please open and read your emails from the MDS. We will continue to do our best to keep you updated and informed. This initiative is the number-one priority for the Society, and you have my promise that MDS leadership and its dedicated staff will not rest until the pandemic is over.

Stay tuned for more details to follow shortly.

Sincerely,

MaryJane Hanlon, DMD  
President

MaryJane Hanlon, DMD  
President

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