FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 19, 2021 CONTACT: Mayor's Office, 781-286-8111



## Revere Board of Health Issues Guidance on Reopening Revere

Revere Will Follow State's Guidelines With Emphasis on Getting Vaccination Numbers Up To State Average

REVERE – After a decision was reached by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to <u>lift</u> remaining COVID-19 restrictions on May 29 with exceptions for mask wearing in schools and other designated areas, following an <u>announcement from the CDC</u> Thursday, May 13, the Revere Board of Health today met to discuss reopening plans for Revere. The Revere Board of Health has decided to will follow the State's decision to lift remaining COVID-19 restrictions effective May 29, while continuing to enforce mask wearing in schools and health care facilities as outlined by Massachusetts DPH. The Board of Health will stay strong its mission to keep Revere residents safe and healthy by urging Revere residents to continue to get vaccinated.

As of today, May 19, 41% of Revere residents are fully vaccinated, slightly less than the state's average of 46%. 55% of Revere residents have now received their first dose – in Massachusetts, the number of residents who have received their first dose is 60%.

The Revere Board of Health also made the decision to continue enforcing mask wearing at City Hall and all City buildings to protect those who have not been vaccinated. COVID screeners will still be monitoring City building entrances and asking health screening questions when residents enter. Revere Public Schools announced yesterday that students can take masks off outdoors, at lunch, and start to share supplies. Masks will continue to be required inside for all students and RPS staff.

"Although this is an exciting moment after the year we just had, we all have to understand that Revere has some work to do," said Mayor Brian Arrigo. "We have a duty to protect our most vulnerable residents, and until our vaccination numbers go up, we must stay vigilant. The COVID screeners have had instances in the past where COVID-19 positive residents try to enter City Hall. It's necessary we enforce the mask mandate in our buildings until our vaccination numbers rise - The fight isn't over yet, but I am excited to finally reach this milestone in the pandemic."

Testing continues to be a priority in the city – the two largest testing sites at <u>Suffolk Downs</u> and <u>Revere High School</u> will be open until the end of September and we encourage everyone to continue to get tested if they believe they have been exposed. COVID ambassadors also continue to spread the word about our <u>Mobile May clinics</u> and help combat vaccine hesitancy in

their communities. The City of Revere Inspectional Services Department will be contacting all Revere small businesses to let them know of the updated reopening guidance. Inspectors will also stress the individual freedom business owners have of enforcing their own mask mandates on their property. The Board of Health will support businesses who continue to enforce mask wearing in their establishments.

###