

## **A Resolution to support communitywide vaccination against COVID-19**

RESOLUTION #2021-\_\_\_\_\_

**Whereas**, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) constitutes arguably the most serious health threat facing the United States in the past 100 years, having afflicted more than 20 million persons in our nation and costing more than 350,000 lives, more than 38,000 of those deaths occurring within New York State; and

**Whereas**, COVID-19 similarly impacts the local community, where more than 15 Tompkins County residents have now died of the coronavirus, and more than 2,000 positive cases of the disease have been reported countywide since the pandemic began, including numerous cases in Enfield; and

**Whereas**, President-Elect Joe Biden, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, and numerous state and local health authorities have urged all residents promptly be vaccinated against COVID-19 at their earliest eligible opportunity, authorities viewing widespread vaccination as the surest and most effective means to stem community spread of this disease and to establish herd immunity, thereby saving lives; and

**Whereas**, the Tompkins County Health Department has initiated efforts to provide community-based Points of Distribution (PODs) for COVID-19 vaccination throughout Tompkins County and has initially identified the Enfield Elementary School as one such potential POD location; and

**Whereas**, unsubstantiated and erroneous rumors and conspiracy theories have circulated questioning the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines, false information that stands to endanger widespread public participation in community vaccination programs and place the public at unwarranted risk; and

**Whereas**, the Enfield Town Board recognizes its obligation to educate and inform its residents as to the safety and efficacy of vaccination against COVID-19 and views widespread, community-wide vaccination as a critical, high-priority objective in protecting its residents' lives and safety; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Enfield Town Board hereby expresses its support and pledges its fullest cooperation toward advancing the widespread, community-wide vaccination of its residents against COVID-19, this Board emphatically rejecting as patently false the unfounded and unproven alleged hazards of the coronavirus vaccine, spurious theories overwhelmingly dismissed by prominent and reputable medical experts, falsehoods which if believed would endanger public participation in the vaccination program, and ultimately, the program's effectiveness; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Enfield Town Board hereby commits to the fullest extent its facilities and staff to assist federal, state, and local authorities in conducting community-wide COVID-19 vaccinations in Enfield; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Enfield Town Board urges that any and all Town-related personnel, including its own employees, volunteers at the Enfield Volunteer Fire Company, the Enfield Food Pantry, and similarly-situated organizations be promptly vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as they become so eligible, unless such persons present valid medical documentation seeking waiver; and be it further

**Resolved**, that to set the proper example for all community residents to follow, each member of this Enfield Town Board, barring a valid medical waiver, pledges to be similarly vaccinated at the earliest opportunity, namely as soon as New York State and Tompkins County Health Department rules permit.