[INSTRUCTIONS: CONGREGATION LEADER – PLEASE CUSTOMIZE THE LETTER BELOW FOR YOUR COMMUNITY]

Dear [MEMBER]:

Across the country, the COVID-19 pandemic is having devastating effects. Here at [INSERT YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP NAME], we have felt the pain and loss in our own community. We’ve supported families who have been affected and mourned those we have lost.

While the pandemic has kept us apart, there is new hope – vaccines are here. They will help us move closer to ending the pandemic.

We want everyone in our community to be safe and get back to hugging our families and friends and shaking hands again with our neighbors. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine adds one more layer of protection for you, your family, and your loved ones. Here are some key points about the COVID-19 vaccine:

* COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
* The most common side effects are pain in the arm where you got the shot, feeling tired, headache, body aches, chills, and fever.
* Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available – wearing masks, practicing social/physical distancing, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, washing your hands frequently, and **getting vaccinated**.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines by visiting, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html>.

We all play a part in this effort, and you are key. If you have questions about vaccination clinics contact the NJ toll-free vaccination hotline at 1-855-568-0545 or visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/where-how-and-when-can-i-get-vaccinated>.

If you want to know more about COVID-19 vaccines, visit [www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019\_vaccination.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml) and <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>.

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE OF CONGREGATION LEADER]

12/2021