The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

# ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## RESCUE INHALERS, EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS AND OXYGEN IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the spread of COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, in view of the grave threat that the spread of COVID-19 presents to the public health, the Public Health Council authorized and directed me to act pursuant to M.G.L. c. 17, §2A and to take all appropriate actions, incur such liabilities, and establish such rules, requirements, and procedures necessary to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

As of March 31, 2020, 6,620 cases of COVID-19 were reported by the Department of Public Health, with 14 of the 14 counties in the Commonwealth impacted and all indications are that the number of cases continues to grow. The escalating COVID-19 public health emergency has begun and will continue to produce an extraordinary demand on the Commonwealth's healthcare system.

Allowing non-MAP Certified staff in Community Programs to possess and administer rescue inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors and oxygen will mean that MAP-Certified staff and licensed health care professionals may be redeployed quickly to provide care where most needed.

Accordingly, having received that authorization from the Council, and with the approval of the Governor, I issue the following Order:

In response to the potential shortage of Medication Administration Program (MAP) Certified Staff to administer rescue inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors and oxygen to individuals in Community Programs, as defined in 105 CMR 700.001, and to avoid unnecessary emergency department visits, G.L. c. 94C, § 7 is hereby suspended, in part, to allow non-MAP Certified staff in Community Programs to possess and administer rescue inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors and oxygen to individuals in Community Programs pursuant to existing patient prescriptions and administration orders, as outlined in Department guidance.

All applicable statute, regulations and guidance not inconsistent with this Order remain in effect.

This Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the State of Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or until rescinded by me, whichever shall happen first.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

April 1, 2020