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ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH EXEMPTING SCHOOL COMMITTEES OR BOARDS OF HEALTH FROM CONDUCTING HEALTH SCREENINGS

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 15, Governor Baker Ordered the suspension of normal in-person instruction and educational operation in all public and private elementary and secondary schools in Massachusetts until April 7, 2020. On April 21, 2020, Governor Baker extended the Order suspending in-person instruction and educational operations until June 29, 2020. The Public Health Council has approved and authorized me to take such actions, incur such liabilities, and establish such rules, requirements, and procedures which are 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, consistent with the Governor's declaration.

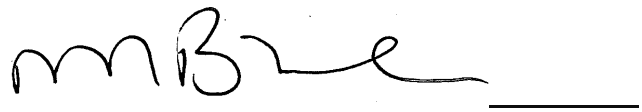
Accordingly, having received that authorization from the Council, and with the approval of the Governor, I issue the following Order:

In light of the Orders suspending in-person instruction and educational operations in schools in Massachusetts the Department of Public Health is suspending the requirement that school committees and/or Boards of Health conduct the health screenings for postural defects, defects in sight or hearing, and substance use disorder pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 57 and 97 and waiving the health screening for vision and hearing and the measurement of height and weight pursuant to 105 CMR 200.400 and 200.500.

The Department of Public Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education may issue further guidance to implement the terms of this Order.

This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until the State of Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or until rescinded by me, whichever shall happen first.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 28, 2020