OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, on March 11, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the number of presumptive positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in the Commonwealth. As of March 15, 2020, 164 cases of COVID-19 were reported by the Department of Public Health, with 10 of the 14 counties in the Commonwealth impacted;

WHEREAS, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies, including the cancellation of large events;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health is urging all residents of the Commonwealth to practice social distancing when outside of their homes;

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including but not limited to authority over public assemblages in order to protect the health and safety of persons;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

All public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth, excluding residential and day schools for special needs students, shall suspend all normal, in-

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

person instruction and other educational operations at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020 and shall not re-open for normal operations before Monday, April 6, 2020.

Public school superintendents are directed to determine how to maintain the operation of programs that provide food services and other essential, non-educational services to students and families during the period in which this Order is in effect. Public school superintendents are further directed to consult with their school boards, teaching staff, and other stakeholders how best to provide student access to alternative learning opportunities during this period based on considerations of equity and the availability of resources to support such efforts.

I hereby direct the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to issue guidance, subject to my approval, to implement the terms of this Order and, more broadly, to support public school systems in developing and implementing plans to assist families and students in accessing alternative learning opportunities during the period in which this Order is in effect.

The Department of Public Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, along with any board of health or authorized agent pursuant to G. L. c. 111, § 30, shall enforce this Order. In addition, I hereby direct the Commissioner of Public Health to act under the authority of G. L. c. 17, § 2A to supplement the terms of this Order in the event she determines additional measures are required to ensure that the terms of this Order are observed. Violation of the terms of this this Order may result in penalties pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 631 of the Acts of 1950.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 4:15 PM this 15th day of March, two thousand and twenty

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts