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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ORDER EXTENDING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

COVID-19 Order No. 28

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");

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, in response to the pandemic, on March 15, 2020, I issued an Order requiring all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth to suspend normal, in-person instruction at the end of the school day on March 16, 2020, and not to re-open for normal operations before April 6, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, I issued an Order extending the closure of all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools for normal, in-person instruction and providing that K-12 schools would not be permitted to re-open for normal operations before May 4, 2020;

WHEREAS, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise dramatically in the Commonwealth. As of April 20, 2020, the Department of Public Health had reported 39,643 cases of COVID-19, including 1,809 deaths, with all counties across the Commonwealth affected;

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

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not limited to authority over vocational or other educational facilities supported in whole or in part by public funds, and over assemblages 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, excepting residential schools for special needs students, shall remain closed for normal, in-person instruction and shall not re-open for normal operations prior to June 29, 2020. This directive supersedes the provision of the March 25, 2020 Order establishing an earlier date for re-opening.

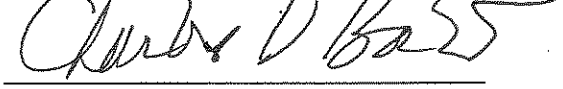
Public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools may not begin in-person summer learning programs before June 29, 2020, unless specifically granted permission by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, acting in consultation with the Department of Public Health.

As provided in the March 15 and March 25, 2020 Orders, public schools are directed to continue efforts to maintain the operation of programs that provide take-out or delivery food services and other essential, non-educational services to students and families during the period in which this Order is in effect. Public schools are additionally directed to continue collaborative efforts to provide student access to alternative learning opportunities.

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 Order may result in penalties pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or further extended.

Given in Boston at 11:15 AM this 21st day of April, two thousand and twenty



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts