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

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 April 7, 2020, 15,202 confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been reported to the Department of Public Health, with every county in the Commonwealth impacted and all indications are that the number of cases continues to grow. Robust and accurate data reporting is essential to monitoring and responding to COVID-19 in the Commonwealth, across all communities and populations.

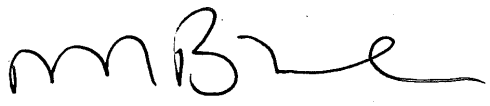
Accordingly, having received that authorization from the Council, and with the approval of the Governor, I issue the following Order:

Health care providers shall make every reasonable effort to collect complete demographic information, including full name, date of birth, sex, race and ethnicity, address, and telephone number on patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, and must include such information collected when ordering a laboratory test for the disease. Laboratories conducting tests for COVID-19 shall report demographic information received from providers in accordance with 105 CMR 300.170. The Department of Public Health shall issue guidance to implement this Order.

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 8, 2020