The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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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. 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:

All hospitals operated by the Department of Public Health or the Department of Mental Health, or licensed pursuant 105 CMR 130 or 104 CMR 27, shall implement procedures published by the Department of Public Health to screen visitors and to restrict visitation as necessary to protect the health of patients and staff. Persons who meet any specified screening criteria shall be restricted from visitation. Facilities subject to this order must continue to comply with all applicable statutes, regulations and guidance not inconsistent with this Order.

This Order shall remain in effect from March 17, 2020, until the State of Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or until rescinded by me, whichever shall happen first.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

March 15, 2020