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 PROHIBITING GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 25 PEOPLE AND ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION OF FOOD OR DRINK

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, 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; and

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:

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Gatherings of over 25 people are prohibited throughout the Commonwealth. Gatherings subject to this Order include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, festivals, and any similar event or activity that brings together 25 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time in a venue such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theatre, gymnasium, fitness center, private club, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.

Any restaurant, bar, or establishment that offers food or drink shall not permit on-premises consumption of food or drink; provided that such establishments may continue to offer food for take-out and by delivery provided that they follow the social distancing protocols set forth in Department of Public Health guidance.

This Order shall not apply to any municipal legislative body or to the General Court or to the judiciary.

The Commissioner of Public Health is directed to issue guidance, subject to my approval, to implement the terms of this Order. The Department of Public Health, along with any board of health or authorized agent pursuant to G.L. c. 111, §30, shall enforce this Order and if necessary may do so with the assistance of State or municipal police. Violation of the terms of this Order or the guidance issued by the Commissioner of Public Health may result in penalties pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 631 of the Acts of 1950.

This Order is effective March 17, 2020 and shall remain in effect through April 5, 2020 unless further extended. On the effective date of this Order, the March 13, 2020 Order Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 250 People is hereby rescinded.

Given in Boston at 12 PM this 15th day of March, two thousand and twenty

Charles D Baker

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts