



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
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## RESCISSION OF 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.

Having received the authorization from the Council described above, and with the approval of the Governor, I issued the following Orders: On March 25, 2020 - Order of the Commissioner of Public Health, and on April 7, 2020 – Guidance for Grocery Stores and Local Boards of Health on the March 25, 2020 Order of the Commissioner Regarding Grocery Stores.

Having been designated an “Essential Service” by the Governor on March 23, 2020, the March 25, 2020 grocery store Order set out specific strategies to reduce COVID-19 exposure for customers and employees. The April 7, 2020 Order set out occupancy limitations for grocery stores and additional actions by which to reduce COVID-19 exposure.

These Orders were effective immediately and remained in effect until the State of Emergency was terminated by the Governor, or until rescinded by me, whichever shall happen first.

On June 8, 2020, the Governor issued Sector Specific Workplace Safety Standards for Retail Businesses to Address COVID-19. These Standards incorporated the COVID-19 reduction strategies included in the March 25 and April 7 Public Health Orders.

Accordingly, I now RESCIND my March 25, 2020 and April 7, 2020 Orders quoted above.

All applicable statutes, regulations and guidance not inconsistent with this Rescission remain in effect. Nothing in this Rescission shall prohibit my issuing of Orders in accordance with M.G.L. c. 17, §2A or other applicable law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "mBharel".

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH  
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

July 10, 2020