OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**
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**CHARLES D. BAKER**
GOVERNOR

**KARYN E. POLITO**
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

# ORDER PROHIBITING GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 250 PEOPLE

**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"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health ("DPH") recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies, including the cancellation of large events. Additionally, the CDC and DPH have advised high-risk individuals, including people over the age of 60, anyone with underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system, and pregnant women, to avoid large gatherings.

**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 authority over public assemblages as necessary to protect the health and safety of persons;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I hereby order the following:

Gatherings of over 250 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 250 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, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. This Order shall not apply to any municipal legislative body or to the General Court or to the judiciary.

The Department 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 this

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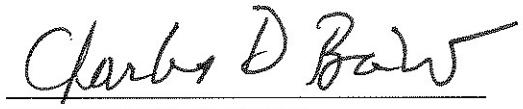
Order or the guidance issued by the Department of Public Health may be result in penalties pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 631 of the Acts of 1950.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 9:15 AM this 13th day of March, two thousand and twenty



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts