

ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-12
Issued November 12, 2021

On May 28, 2021, pursuant to Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, Governor Charles D. Baker declared that an emergency exists that is detrimental to the public health in the Commonwealth due to the continuing threat of COVID-19, and authorized the Commissioner, with the approval of the Public Health Council, to adopt measures to facilitate COVID-19 testing and vaccination, to mandate special measures to protect higher risk populations or to effectuate continued surveillance of COVID-19, and to respond as necessary to outbreaks of the virus as they may arise.

Consistent with the Governor's May 28, 2021 declaration, on June 9, 2021, the Public Health Council approved and authorized the Commissioner of Public Health 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. Accordingly, having received that authorization from the Council and with the approval of the Governor, I issue the following Order:

The Board of Registration in Medicine ("Board") shall immediately adopt the following policy to provide for the expedited licensure of physicians who are graduates of International Medical Schools and who are currently practicing in a United States jurisdiction under a limited license:

1. All graduates of International Medical Schools who have satisfactorily completed at least two years of postgraduate medical training in a program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association or in an accredited Canadian program shall be eligible for licensure. The Board shall review and approve such applications by expedited process.
2. The Board is directed to issue guidance to implement the terms of this Order. The Board shall notify the Commissioner when it becomes aware of any individual instance where, due to special concerns, application of this Order may be contrary to the public interest. The Commissioner shall in her sole discretion determine whether to apply or suspend the terms of this Order in any such individual instance.

All applicable statutes, regulations, and guidance not inconsistent with this Order remain in effect.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded by me or the public health emergency is terminated by the Governor, whichever shall happen first.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Margret R. Cooke
Acting Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
November 12, 2021