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Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
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**ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-15**  
**Issued December 2, 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:

In response to a continuing shortage of Medication Administration Program (MAP) Certified staff to administer rescue inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors to individuals at Community Programs, as defined in 105 CMR 700.001, and to avoid unnecessary emergency department visits, G.L. c. 94C, § 7 is hereby suspended, in part, to allow non-MAP Certified staff in Community Programs to possess and administer rescue inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors to individuals in Community Programs pursuant to existing patient prescriptions and administration orders, as outlined in Department guidance.

This Order extends and supersedes the effective date specified in COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order 2021-8, issued September 15, 2021.

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

This Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2022, unless extended or rescinded by me prior to that date, or the public health emergency is terminated by the Governor, whichever shall happen first.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

*Margret Cooke*

Margret Cooke

Acting Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

December 2, 2021

*Margret Cooke*