

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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. 2022-02
Issued January 14, 2022

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 order to maximize health care provider availability and to respond to increased healthcare needs during the public health emergency, employers of physician assistants may allow qualified physician assistants in good standing to practice without designating a supervising physician and without preparing and signing prescriptive practice or scope of practice guidelines, provided the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The physician assistant is employed by a physician, group of physicians, or healthcare facility where physician assistants and physicians work together to provide patient care;
2. The employer and the physician assistant determine the services provided by the physician assistant are within the education, training, experience, and competencies of the physician assistant;
3. The physician assistant is not utilized as the sole medical personnel in charge of emergency services, outpatient services, or any other clinical service.

Nothing in this Order shall allow a physician assistant to practice independently outside of a physician practice or healthcare facility.

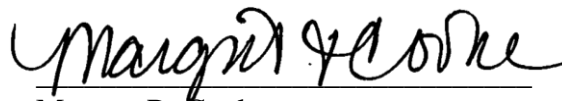
The physician assistant's supervising physician is not responsible for practice pursuant to this Order.

For the purposes of this Order, "in good standing" shall include a license that is subject to non-disciplinary conditions, but shall not include a license that is on probation, revoked, cancelled, surrendered, suspended, or subject to disciplinary restrictions.

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 the Public Health Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or until rescinded by me, whichever shall happen first.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margret R. Cooke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Margret R. Cooke
Acting Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
January 14, 2022