



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO  
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS  
Secretary

MARGRET R. COOKE  
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000  
[www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)

**ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-11**  
**Issued February 16, 2022**

*Rescinding Order No. 2021-16*

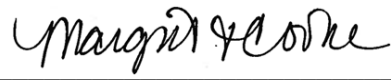
On May 28, 2021, pursuant to Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, Governor Charles D. Baker declared that an emergency exists that is detrimental to the public health in the Commonwealth due to the continuing threat of COVID-19, and authorized the Commissioner, with the approval of the Public 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.

Having received that authorization from the Council and with the approval of the Governor, on December 10, 2021, I issued COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-16 exempting hospitals licensed pursuant to G.L. c. 111, § 51 from the acuity-assessed staffing and nurse-to patient ratio requirements of G.L. c. 111, § 231 upon certain conditions.

As its provisions are no longer necessary to preserve the ability of the Commonwealth's hospital system to respond to COVID-19 and otherwise to ensure acute care inpatient capacity, COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-16 is rescinded effective immediately, and all hospitals must comply with staffing and patient ratio requirements of G. L. c. 111, s 231 without modification or exception.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Margret R. Cooke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

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Margret R. Cooke  
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
February 16, 2022