



## **DECLARATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATIVE TO COVID-19 IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

**The Boston Public Health Commission, acting through its duly appointed and authorized agent, Interim Executive Director Rita Nieves, pursuant to M.G.L. c.111 § 30 and the Boston Public Health Act of 1995, M.G.L. c. 111 App § 2-6 and M.G.L. c.111 § 181, hereby enacts and declares as follows:**

Whereas, there is clear evidence that COVID-19, also known as 2019 Novel Coronavirus, is present within the City of Boston with the heightened likelihood of community transmission;

Whereas, the Boston Public Health Commission seeks to limit exposure of COVID-19 to the residents of the City of Boston;

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DELCARED THAT A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY EXISTS WITHIN THE CITY OF BOSTON.**

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Interim Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, acting solely as an agent of the Boston Public Health Commission, shall immediately implement any and all measures and recommendations for the prevention and control of COVID-19 as circumstances may require.
2. The Interim Executive Director shall have access to and the use of all employees, equipment and other resources of the Boston Public Health Commission;
3. The specific information related to the declaration of this emergency is below:
  - a. The nature of the emergency: Infectious Disease Outbreak;
  - b. The threshold to determine that an emergency has been reached: A series of events caused by the infectious disease outbreak resulting in a significant impact to the community: 1) closing of a Boston Public School related to an infection in a school community member and subsequent planned closure of the Boston Public School system; 2) closing of a major hospitality business due to multiple positive cases; 3) positive cases related to a large corporate event; and 4) the heightened likelihood of community transmission;
  - c. The geographic area affected: City of Boston;

- d. The anticipated duration of the emergency: March 15, 2020 until April 27, 2020, unless extended at the discretion of the Interim Executive Director;
  - e. The conditions that led to the emergency: Multiple infections of COVID-19 in Boston with significant impact to the community and increased demands for core public health functions as well as the likelihood of community transmission;
  - f. The anticipated authorities and resources necessary for responding to the public health emergency: Increased resources for core public health and supporting functions, as may be specified through subsequent directives of the Interim Executive Director or her designee.
4. Any public health emergency associated with an infectious disease outbreak that requires the enforcement of powers associated with isolation and quarantine measures, and the collection of patient health information, will follow the Laws and Regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding Isolation and Quarantine, as well as BPHC's Isolation and Quarantine Regulation of 2003.
  5. All healthcare partners within the City of Boston will be expected to communicate current response activities and situational awareness to BPHC's Medical Intelligence Center (MIC); communicate any current or anticipated resource gaps to the MIC; communicate any existing resources that may be available to other coalition members to assist in the community response; monitor situational awareness platforms for alerts, notifications and updates; participate in coalition-wide information sharing; and maintain lines of communication within the discipline to allow for timely information sharing as requested and as appropriate to the MIC. Additional information or coordination needs may be requested by the BPHC Executive Director and Medical Director to support coordination and response efforts.

**This declaration shall be in full force and effect as of the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020 and shall remain in effect until April 27, 2020, unless circumstances warrant an extension by the Interim Executive Director.**



**Rita Nieves**  
**INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION**

**Dated: March 15, 2020**