



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY BY COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CITY MANAGER

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory virus, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Charlie Baker issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health and the Cambridge City Manager, in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health have determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to the public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS, the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health and the Cambridge City Manager have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health and the Cambridge City Manager hereby declare that as of March 19, 2020, a state of emergency exists in the City of Cambridge. We further ratify, confirm and adopt any related action taken prior to the formal adoption of this declaration. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice.

Date: March 19, 2020

By:

Louis A. DePasquale,
City Manager

By:

Dr. Assaad J. Sayah, M.D.,
Commissioner of Public Health