Ordering of measures to protect the health of the population amid the COVID-19 pandemic situation

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WHEREAS the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 pandemic on 11 March 2020;

WHEREAS, under section 118 of the Public Health Act (chapter S-2.2), the Government may declare a public health emergency in all or part of the territory of Québec where a serious threat to the health of the population, whether real or imminent, requires the immediate application of certain measures provided for in section 123 of the Act to protect the health of the population;

WHEREAS the pandemic constitutes a real and grave threat to the health of the population that requires the immediate application of certain measures provided for in section 123 of the Act;

WHEREAS, by Order in Council 177-2020 dated 13 March 2020, the Government declared a public health emergency throughout Québec for a period of 10 days;


WHEREAS Order in Council 223-2020 dated 24 March 2020 orders in particular the suspension of all activities carried on in work environments, except in work environments providing the priority services listed in the Schedule to the Order in Council;


WHEREAS during the public health emergency, despite any provisions to the contrary, the Government or the Minister of Health and Social Services, if she has been so empowered, may, without delay and without further formality, take any measure provided for in subparagraphs 1 to 8 of the first paragraph of section 123 of the Act to protect the health of the population;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic situation makes it possible to relax the measures taken to protect the health of the population while maintaining certain measures necessary to continue to protect it;

IT IS ORDERED, therefore, on the recommendation of the Minister of Health and Social Services:

THAT the suspension applicable to activities carried on in work environments under Order in Council 223-2020 dated 24 March 2020 be lifted with respect to retail businesses situated elsewhere than in the territory of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal and that are not covered under the heading “6. Priority
commercial enterprises" of the Schedule to that Order in Council, amended by Ministerial Orders 2020-014 dated 2 April 2020, 2020-015 dated 4 April 2020, 2020-021 dated 14 April 2020 and 2020-023 dated 17 April 2020, provided that

(1) the businesses have a door to the outside ordinarily used by the clientele;

(2) access to the businesses through an indoor common area be prohibited;


THAT that Order in Council be modified accordingly;

THAT the Schedule to that Order in Council, as amended, be again amended by inserting “in the case of businesses situated in the territory of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal” after “telephone sales only” in paragraph g of the heading “6. Priority commercial enterprises;

THAT the measures provided for in Ministerial Order 2020-012 dated 30 March 2020, amended by Ministerial Order 2020-014 dated 2 April 2020 and Ministerial Order 2020-015 dated 4 April 2020, apply to every retail business;

THAT the Minister of Health and Social Services be empowered to order any modification or clarification of the measures provided for in this Order in Council;

THAT this Order in Council take effect from 4 May 2020.