

## INSIGHTS + NEWS

## Peter Martin Writes “States of Emergency” for Worcester Medicine

BY PETER J. MARTIN • FEBRUARY 28, 2022

On March 10, 2020, Massachusetts Governor Baker declared a state of emergency. Since then, the declaration was rescinded and the state of emergency terminated, and the Commissioner of Public Health re-issued 14 public health orders related to the pandemic. This sequence of events, and the legal authorities that are allowed to make these decisions, raise interesting questions about what is a public health emergency and how do we know when it is over. Peter Martin dives into more detail in his article in *Worcester Medicine* magazine. Here is an excerpt:

The problem of finding a public health emergency in garden-variety health problems is exacerbated by the lack of a clear path out of emergency and into resumed normality. The Model State Emergency Health Powers Act permits the governor to terminate the public health emergency by executive order; limits emergency declarations to 30 days, but permits the governor to renew declarations for an unlimited number of additional 30-day periods; and gives the legislature the power to terminate the declaration but only with a majority vote of both chambers.

Continue reading the full article “[States of Emergency](#)” in *Worcester Medicine* magazine.