## WITHDRAWAL OF JOINT CONTROL ORDER OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES FOR TARRANT COUNTY, THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, AND THE CITY OF BURLESON REGARDING PUBLIC AND NON-RELIGIOUS PRIVATE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2020 the Local Health Authorities for Tarrant County, The City of Arlington, and The City of Burleson, in reliance upon Sections 81.082(a), and 121.024 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and Sections 85.1 (g) and 97.6(h) of the Texas Administrative Code, issued a joint control order mandating that public and non-religious private schools shall not re-open for on-campus, face to face instruction or activities until September 28, 2020, with enumerated exceptions; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, the Attorney General of Texas provided a letter opinion that the aforesaid statutory and administrative provisions do not authorize a local health authority to close public or private schools before there is evidence of actual infection in the schools, and that local officials are without authority to order the closure of schools on the grounds that such an order conflicts with Executive Order GA-28 (GA-28) issued by the Governor of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Control Order of July 21, 2020, was intended to remain consistent with and to harmonize the Executive Orders of Governor Greg Abbott (as extended or modified); and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General stated that GA-28 allows all schools, both public and private, to operate and that that local orders that restrict permitted school operations conflict with GA-28 and are thus superseded; and

WHEREAS, we have not changed our medical opinions or recommendations, but in light of the Attorney General's letter opinion we desire to withdraw the Joint Control Order of July 21, 2020, to eliminate any confusion for school districts and parents.

THEREFORE, effective immediately, the Local Health Authorities for Tarrant County, The City of Arlington, and The City of Burleson withdraw their Joint Control Order of July 21, 2020, and it shall be of no further force or effect.

ORDERED THIS the 30th day of July 2020.

CATHERINE A. COLQUITT, M.D.

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Local Health Authority and Medical Director

County of Tarrant

CYNTHIA SIMMONS, M.D.

Local Health Authority and Medical Director

City of Arlington

STEVE MARTIN, M.D.

Local Health Authority and Medical Director

City of Burleson