STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 20-50

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 WINTER TASK FORCE

WHEREAS: An outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) spread throughout the world resulting in a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS: On March 11, 2020, by Executive Order 20-03, an emergency was declared in the state as a result of COVID-19, and the emergency continues; and

WHEREAS: In response to COVID-19, significant targeted measures have been taken by Executive Order and Directives by the Secretary of Health to limit the spread and mitigate the impact of the virus; and

WHEREAS: The upcoming winter months are expected to present additional challenges in the state's effort to combat the effects of COVID-19 on Arkansas citizens; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas continues to experience record high numbers of COVID-19 cases and COVID-19 related hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS: It is in the best interest of Arkansans to ensure that the state approaches the winter months with a medically sound and data-driven strategy for combating the virus and providing Arkansans with the necessary resources to cope with its effects;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order the following:

(1) There is hereby created the Governor's COVID-19 Winter Task Force, which shall serve as an investigative and advisory body of the Governor.

(2) The task force shall be composed of members appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall serve as the chairman of the task force, and Arkansas Surgeon General shall serve as vice-chairman. The task force shall be composed of the following individuals, or his or her designee:

a) Dr. Greg Bledsoe, Surgeon General for the State of Arkansas;
b) Larry Shackelford, President and CEO of Washington Regional Medical Center;
c) Chris Barber, President and CEO of St. Bernard's Healthcare;
d) Scott Street, CEO of Medical Center of South Arkansas;
e) Dr. Cam Patterson, Chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;
f) Rachel Bunch, Executive Director of Arkansas Health Care Association;
g) Bo Ryall, President and CEO of Arkansas Hospital Association;
h) Troy Wells, President and CEO of Baptist Health;
i) Ryan Gehrig, President of Mercy Hospital, Fort Smith;
j) Major General Kendall Penn, Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard;

k) A.J. Gary, Director of Arkansas Department of Emergency Management;
l) Dr. José Romero, Secretary of Arkansas Department of Health;
m) Dr. Jerrilyn Jones, Arkansas Department of Health;
n) Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, Arkansas Department of Health;
o) Dr. Naveen Patil, Arkansas Department of Health;
p) Dr. Keyur Vyas, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;
q) Phillip Gilmore, CEO of Ashley County Medical Center;
r) Dr. Steven Collier, CEO of ARcare;
s) Ron Peterson, President and CEO of Baxter County Regional Medical Center; and
t) Additional citizens as the Governor deems necessary.

(3) The task force shall make recommendations for how the state can support hospital coordination, staffing, and resources.

(4) The task force shall analyze data to determine critical areas of virus transmission and make recommendations for any measures necessary to combat COVID-19 in Arkansas during the winter months.

(5) The Arkansas Department of Health shall remain the lead state agency for COVID-19 response in the state. The task force shall coordinate with the Department of Health for the implementation of any recommendations.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed the 13th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2020.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor