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D 2020 288

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Amending and Extending Executive Orders D 2020 005, D 2020 008, D 2020 036, D 2020 061, D 2020 095, D 2020 129, D 2020 155, D 2020 179, D 2020 209, D 2020 231, and D 2020 263 Concerning Limiting In-Person Contact for the 2020 Elections and the Secretary of State's Operations Due to the Presence of COVID-19 in Colorado

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq*., I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order amending and extending Executive Order D 2020 005, as amended and extended by Executive Orders D 2020 008, D 2020 036, D 2020 061, D 2020 095, D 2020 129, D 2020 155, D 2020 179, D 2020 209, D 2020 231, and D 2020 263, concerning changes to 2020 election activity to limit in-person contact while allowing the elections to proceed safely and without interruption to the Secretary of State's operations due to the presence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado.

I. Background and Purpose

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb, and we have evidence of community spread throughout the State. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, D 2020 125, D 2020 152, D 2020 176, D 2020 205, D 2020 234, D 2020 258, D 2020 264, D 2020 268, and D 2020 284. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020.

My administration, along with other State, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our health care resources. We must continue to take action to minimize the duration of this epidemic and the disruption to our daily lives. The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread primarily by close contact between people and through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Public health experts recommend we practice "social distancing," or maintaining a physical distance of six (6) feet or more from other people, as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19.

This Executive Order amends and extends Executive Order D 2020 005 for an additional thirty (30) days, as amended and extended by Executive Orders D 2020 008, D 2020 036, D 2020 061, D 2020 095, D 2020 129, D 2020 155, D 2020 179, D 2020 209, D 2020 231, and D 2020 263. I am extending Sections II.K and II.L to enable political parties to continue utilizing remote operations to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, and allowing all other provisions to expire.

II. Amendments

Section II of Executive Order D 2020 005, as amended and extended by Executive Orders D 2020 008, D 2020 036, D 2020 061, D 2020 095, D 2020 129, D 2020 155, D 2020 179, D 2020 209, D 2020 231, and D 2020 263, is amended as follows:

i. Sections II.F, II.G, II.H, II.I, II.J, and II.M are deleted.

ii. Sections II.K and II.L are extended for an additional thirty (30) days.

III. Duration

Executive Order D 2020 005, as amended and extended by Executive Orders D 2020 008, D 2020 036, D 2020 061, D 2020 095, D 2020 129, D 2020 155, D 2020 179, D 2020 209, D 2020 231, D 2020 263, and this Executive Order, shall expire thirty (30) days from December 26, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order. In all other respects, Executive Order D 2020 005, as amended and extended by Executive Orders D 2020 008, D 2020 036, D 2020 061, D 2020 095, D 2020 129, D 2020 155, D 2020 179, D 2020 209, D 2020 231, D 2020 263, shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-sixth day of December, 2020.

Jared Polis
Governor