STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 78-20

By the Governor

WHEREAS, a State of Emergency was declared on the Sixteenth Day of March, Two Thousand Twenty for all counties in West Virginia (the "State of Emergency Declaration"), to allow agencies to coordinate and create necessary measures to prepare for and respond to the outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 6 of the Code of West Virginia authorizes the Governor to, among other things, control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area or an area where large-scale threat exists, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein, and to perform and exercise other functions, powers, and duties that are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population; and

WHEREAS, the holiday season tends to bring families and other groups from different communities together and the potential for transmission of COVID-19 during this time is heightened, and the potential for further transmission of COVID-19 upon re-entry into a congregate setting such as exists in the pre-K through 12 schools throughout the state is likewise heightened during this time; and

WHEREAS, given the heightened public health concerns related to occupancy of educational institutions for in-person instruction during the time of heightened risk during and following the Thanksgiving holiday, West Virginia's public health experts have advised that limiting occupancy by students for in-person instruction at the private and public pre-K through 12 schools throughout the state from Thursday, November 26, 2020, through and including Wednesday, December 2, 2020, is appropriate at this time; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM JUSTICE, pursuant to the authority vested in me pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 6 and Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 1 of the Code of West Virginia, hereby **DECLARE** and **ORDER**, that the private and public pre-K through 12 schools throughout the state shall limit occupancy of their premises to prohibit in-person instruction of or activities by students, but such schools may implement remote learning plans from Thursday, November 26, 2020, through and including Wednesday, December 2, 2020, in order to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in school classrooms following the Thanksgiving holiday. All essential student supports, including meal preparation and delivery and special education services, may continue.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Thirteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty in the One Hundred Fifty-eighth year of the State.

GOVERNOR

By the Governor

SECRETARY OF STATE