**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY**

**NED LAMONT**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7BBB**

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – TRI-STATE TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR TRAVELERS FROM STATES WITH HIGH-INFECTION RATES, OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES**

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to such declaration, I have issued fifty-four (54) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

**WHEREAS,** the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

**WHEREAS,** the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is higher for individuals who are 60 or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

**WHEREAS,** public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and

**WHEREAS,** public health experts have indicated that persons infected with COVID-19 may not show symptoms, and transmission or "shedding" of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

**WHEREAS,** the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and

**WHEREAS,** upon a proclamation that a public health or civil preparedness emergency exists, section 28-9(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the modification or suspension in whole or in part by executive order of any statute or regulation or requirement or part thereof that conflicts with the efficient and expeditious execution of civil preparedness functions or the protection of public health; and

**WHEREAS,** the cooperation and diligence of the people of Connecticut has successfully slowed the transmission of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** Connecticut has gone from having one of the highest infection rates to one of the lowest in the country and is one of only a few states reported to be successfully limiting transmission of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** our State has undertaken a cautious, incremental and evidence-based approach to reopening its economy and other activities while other states that may have taken a less cautious approach are experiencing an increased prevalence of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** Connecticut must remain diligent and work in conjunction with its neighboring states of New Jersey and New York, as well as any other states who wish to collaborate, to mitigate the significant risk posed to the health and welfare of all residents by the further spread of COVID-19 to the tristate area, to protect the progress made; and

**WHEREAS,** to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 posed by conducting an in-person election during a time of high infections and hospitalization rates, I issued Executive Order No. 7BB to postpone Connecticut's presidential primary to August 11, and Executive Order No. 7QQ to provide that the COVID-19 pandemic is an acceptable reason to vote in that primary by absentee ballot; and

**WHEREAS,** conducting such primary safely and efficiently requires that primary ballots be finalized, ordered, and printed on an accelerated schedule, and the requirement that a candidate have until 36 days before the primary to withdraw and that the Secretary of the State determine the order of names on the ballot 35 days before the primary do not permit such accelerated schedule; and

**WHEREAS,** the Secretary of the State has received information from presidential campaigns for the candidates who have not yet withdrawn from the 2020 presidential primary indicating that those candidates do not intend to withdraw; and

**WHEREAS,** because of the difficulty and additional transmission risks posed by in-person examinations, the requirements in Sections 22a-54(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 22a-66-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies that certification not be issued for commercial pesticide junior operators until candidates have completed an examination and paid the certification fee could interfere with adequate staffing for pesticide application services that protect the public health; and

**WHEREAS,** as additional businesses reopen and other activity resumes, the need for adequate child care capacity increases and public health recommendations warrant modification of required health procedures;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT,** Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. **Self-Quarantine by Travelers from States Experiencing High Infection Rates.** The Commissioner of the Department of Public Health shall issue a travel advisory, effective at 12:01 a.m. on June 25, 2020, which shall be communicated widely at all major points of entry into Connecticut, including on highway message boards and in all Connecticut airports, that:

   All travelers entering Connecticut from a state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than a 10% test positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average, shall self-quarantine for a period of 14 days. The Commissioner may issue additional protocols for essential workers, or for other extraordinary circumstances, when a quarantine is not possible, provided such measures continue to safeguard the public health. The criteria and protocols will be coordinated with New York and New Jersey in order to ensure that the tri-state area is protected from community transmission of COVID-19, while permitting free travel between and among the states.

2. **Amended Deadline for Candidates to Withdraw from Presidential Primary.** Section 9-466 of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to provide that a candidate's name shall be placed on the ballot unless that candidate files with the Secretary of the State, not later than 12 o'clock p.m. on the forty-third day before the primary, the written request to be omitted from the ballot that is described in that section.

3. **Accelerated Date to Finalize Order of Names on Presidential Preference Primary Ballot.** Section 9-470 of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to provide that, for the 2020 presidential preference primary, the Secretary of the State shall determine by lot, in a public ceremony on the forty-second day preceding the day of the primary, the order in which names of the candidates will appear on the ballot of each party. Such public ceremony may be conducted in accordance with Executive Order No. 7B. All other provisions of Section 9-470 shall remain in effect.

4. **Temporary Commercial Pesticide Junior Operator Certification.** Section 22a-54(c)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 22a-66-5(h) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are modified to authorize the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to order the issuance of temporary commercial pesticide Junior Operator certifications without examination, provided that the Commissioner determines in her discretion that a candidate is otherwise qualified, and to defer the fees associated with such certifications until such candidate takes the required examination. The Commissioner shall retain the authority to withhold,

suspend or revoke such certification if she determines such action to be in the interest of public health and safety.

5. **Authority to Modify Enhanced Health Procedures in Child Care and Day Camps.** The Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, may modify or amend the enhanced health procedures set forth in Executive Order No. 7Q, Section 2 and Executive Order No. 7PP, Section 7 to provide safe and adequate child care that protects children, staff and their families from COVID-19 transmission while responding to the current public health data and recommendations.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified, extended or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 24th day of June, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State