STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1519

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Mississippi significantly impacts the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health announced new and expanded measures to increase testing and data analysis to identify regions and localities that are at higher risk for transmission of COVID-19 and to provide more location-specific restrictions and limitation of movement and social interaction to combat the virus in those regions and localities; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1492 establishing the statewide Safe Return order to restart the economy, open all businesses and non-profits operating within the State of Mississippi, and permit the resumption of community activities subject to limitations to minimize person to person interactions and associated risk of transmission of COVID-19 effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020, and remaining in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 1492, as amended and extended by Executive Orders 1496, 1500, 1505, 1508, 1511, 1514, 1516 and 1518 has been extended and remains in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi must protect lives while restoring livelihoods, both of which can be achieved with the expert advice of medical professionals and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, continuing to follow a measured and strategic plan to allow all businesses and non-profits to continue to operate within the State of Mississippi is essential to the health, safety and well-being of Mississippi residents; and

WHEREAS, the key to reducing the community transmission of COVID-19 and keeping all Mississippi colleges and universities open is for all Mississippians to consistently wear a face covering while in public spaces, to practice social distancing from persons not in the same household and to maintain good hand hygiene; and

WHEREAS, a further measure necessary to keep all Mississippi colleges and universities open and further reduce community transmission of COVID-19 is to temporarily limit attendance at events held in college and university outdoor stadiums.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. Paragraph I of Executive Order 1492 is amended to add subsection (o) as follows:

(o) College and University Outdoor Stadiums: Attendance at events held in college and university outdoor stadiums shall be permitted subject to the following limitations:

i. Seating Capacity:

1. Bowl seating: Consistent with the limitations contained in Paragraph I(d) of Executive Order 1496, bowl seating shall be limited to a maximum of 25% seating capacity depending on space available to ensure a minimum of six feet of social distancing between persons not in the same household.
2. Club areas: Consistent with the limitations contained in Paragraph I(a)(x) of Executive Order 1478, indoor club areas shall be limited to a maximum of 50% seating capacity depending on space available to ensure a minimum of six feet social distancing between persons not in the same household, with an additional 25% seating capacity in any outdoor seating areas. All other limitations contained in Paragraph I(a) of Executive Order 1478 will be applicable in the club areas.
3. Suites: Consistent with the limitations contained in Paragraph I(a)(x) of Executive Order 1478, suite capacity shall be limited to a maximum of 50% seated capacity (indoor and outdoor) depending on space available to ensure a minimum of six feet social distancing between persons not in the same household. All other limitations contained in Paragraph I(a) of Executive Order 1478 will be applicable in the suite areas.

ii. Outdoor Social Gatherings Around College and University Stadiums:
All game day/event day social gatherings outside college and university stadiums shall be strictly prohibited. This prohibition applies to all tailgating, picnics, fanfare areas, and the like.

iii. College and University Stadium Operations:

1. Pursuant to Executive Order 1516 (and the exceptions contained therein), face coverings shall be worn by all attendees 6 years of age or older to enter and exit a college or university stadium, at all times when attendees are "in transit" within the concourse, elevators, restrooms, and concession sales areas and when it is not possible to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from persons not in the same household. Face coverings are recommended and strongly encouraged in seating areas even when it is possible to maintain six feet of separation from persons not in the same household. All credentialed game day workers and employees shall wear face coverings at all times.
2. Attendees shall at all times attempt to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from persons not in the same household.
3. Prominent signage shall be posted in parking lots, pedestrian paths to the stadium, at all points of entry and in the area of concessions and restrooms mandating that a face covering shall be worn in compliance with the requirements herein, that attendees shall maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from all persons not in the same household and that attendees shall not enter the stadium if they display any symptom of COVID-19.
4. All stadium entry/exit gates and restrooms shall be open. Social distancing (of a minimum of six feet) shall be observed by all attendees waiting in line at stadium gates and restrooms. Attendees shall not be permitted to congregate in the area of stadium gates or restrooms.
5. Concession stands shall be operated in accordance with the limitations contained in Paragraph I(a) of Executive Order 1500. "Grab and go" food and beverage services are strongly encouraged, and condiments shall be offered only as single-serve condiments.

6. Hand sanitizing and/or hand washing stations shall be available at all entry gates, in stadium concourses and throughout all stadium areas.
7. To the extent possible, all transactions shall be contactless or touchless such as mobile ticketing, contactless–ticket scanning, touchless restroom fixtures, cashless concession sales, and the like.
8. Elevator capacity shall be restricted to family units or a maximum of five (5) attendees based on manufacturer/service provider recommendations. The use of pedestrian ramps shall be encouraged.
9. Sideline regulations shall be strictly enforced to minimize the number of individuals on the field to those who are essential for game play.
10. The college or university shall designate a Safety Officer with staff in a sufficient number to ensure that all limitations contained in this Executive Order are observed and enforced.

II. This Executive Order shall be effective upon execution and shall remain in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 31, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

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

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 20th day of August, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE