# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## *Office of the Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1543**

**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**, with vigilance and common sense, and as a result of the continued sacrifices made by all Mississippians in the interest of public health over the past nine months, COVID-19 infections and resulting hospitalizations have been effectively managed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Recovery Order instituted in Executive Order 1535, as extended by Executive Order 1542, adopts reasonable public health measures under the current circumstances permitting all business and non-profits to continue operating within the State of Mississippi and permitting the continued resumption of all community activities subject to reasonable limitations to minimize person to person interactions and associated risk of transmission of COVID-19 is set to expire at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3, 2021; 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**, as Mississippi continues to safely recover, the key to reducing spread of COVID-19 is the continued implementation of reasonable public health measures under the current circumstances including social distancing, limited capacity of gatherings where individuals are in prolonged close proximity, and use of face coverings for individuals engaged in close proximity activities and for prolonged gatherings where social distancing is not feasible; and

**WHEREAS**, while some jurisdictions throughout Mississippi have shown a relatively stabilized rate of diagnosis of new cases, the State Health Officer has reported that data from certain jurisdictions of the state (a) indicate periods of higher numbers of new cases over shorter periods of time accounting for a larger percentage of the State's overall case count, (b) have higher percent incidence of positive cases per number of tests performed, and (c) have other public health indicators reflecting ongoing community transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, testing and contact tracing throughout the state allows healthcare providers and the State Health Officer to monitor and gauge the rate and locations of new COVID-19 cases, enabling a prompt response to areas showing an increased rate of transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 9, 2020, upon counsel and recommendation of the State Health Officer, I issued Executive Order 1536 establishing additional jurisdiction-specific measures in Adams, Alcorn, Amite, Attala, Bolivar, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, De Soto, Forrest, Franklin, Grenada, Harrison, Hinds, Holmes, Itawamba, Jackson, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lafayette, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lee, Leflore, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pearl River, Perry, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Rankin, Scott, Simpson,

Stone, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union, Washington, Webster, Winston, Yalobusha and Yazoo Counties to further disrupt the spread of the COVID-19 virus within those Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 22, 2020, upon counsel and recommendation of the State Health Officer, I issued Executive Order 1539 establishing additional jurisdiction-specific measures in Benton, George, Greene, Hancock, Humphreys, Jasper, Leake, Newton, Pike, Quitman, Smith, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Walthall, Warren, Wayne and Wilkinson Counties to further disrupt the spread of the COVID-19 virus within those Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 15, 2021, upon counsel and recommendation of the State Health Officer, I issued Executive Order 1542 establishing additional jurisdiction-specific measures in Claiborne and Tunica Counties to further disrupt the spread of the COVID-19 virus within those Counties, and discontinued the additional jurisdiction-specific measures in Adams, Jefferson, Lawrence, Quitman and Wilkinson Counties due to the stabilized rate of COVID-19 cases in those Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, upon counsel and recommendation of the State Health Officer, in order to continue to disrupt the spread of COVID-19 and minimize person to person interactions and associated risk, it is necessary to further extend the Safe Recovery Order and continue the additional jurisdiction-specific measures pursuant to Executive Order 1536, as amended by Executive Orders 1539 and 1542.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution, the Mississippi Emergency Management Law as amended, Miss. Code. Ann.§ 33-15-1 *et seq.*, and other laws of the State of Mississippi, and in consultation with the State Health Officer do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. The statewide Safe Recovery Order instituted in Executive Order 1535, as extended by Paragraph I of Executive Order 1542, is further extended and shall remain in full force and effect until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

II. Paragraph II(n)(i) of Executive Order 1535 is amended as follows:

*n.* ***College and University Outdoor Stadiums:*** Attendance at events held in college and university outdoor stadiums, including baseball fields, shall be permitted subject to the following limitations:

i. Seating Capacity:

1. Bowl/Outdoor Stadium seating: Bowl/Outdoor Stadium ticketed 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: Indoor club areas shall be limited to a maximum of 75% 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.
3. Indoor Suites: Suite capacity shall be limited to a maximum of 75% 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.
4. Reserved Outdoor Outfield Boxes – Reserved outfield boxes shall be limited to a maximum number of four (4) ticketed persons to ensure a minimum of six feet of social distancing between persons not in the same household. Ticketed guests in reserved outdoor outfield boxes shall be permitted to provide food service and preparation to ticketed guests in the same household within the their reserved space.

5. Non-fixed Outdoor Terrace/Berm Areas – capacity in all non-fixed outdoor terrace/berm areas shall be limited to a maximum number of ticketed persons in marked areas to ensure a minimum of six feet of social distancing between persons not in the same household.

III. Executive Order 1536, as amended by Paragraph I of Executive Order 1539 and Paragraphs II and III of Executive Order 1542, is further extended and shall remain in full force and effect until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

**IN WITNESS 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 3rd day of February, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one, 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**