STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7A

PROTECTION OF RESIDENTS OF NURSING HOME FACILITIES, RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES AND CHRONIC DISEASE HOSPITALS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued declarations 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 confirmed spread in Connecticut; 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, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is higher for people who are 60 years old or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, there is an increased risk of rapid spread of COVID-19 among persons who are living in congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities, and residents of long-term care facilities are at increased risk for severe COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow down the transmission of the virus, including cancellation of large gatherings and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, I issued Executive Order No. 7, which, among other things, authorized the Commissioner of Public Health to restrict visitation in nursing home facilities, residential care homes and chronic disease hospitals, with certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, nursing homes and related facilities throughout Connecticut are experiencing staffing shortages as a result of the closure of schools and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing the risks to patients, residents, and staff; and

WHEREAS, there exists a compelling state interest in restricting visitation in nursing home facilities, residential care homes and chronic disease hospitals to protect the health and safety of their patients, residents, and staff;

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. For the duration of the aforementioned public health and civil preparedness emergencies, or until such time as I repeal or modify this executive order, notwithstanding Section 19a-550(b)(12) of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other statute, regulation, local rule or ordinance or provision of law, the Commissioner of Public Health is authorized to issue any and all orders restricting entrance into nursing home facilities, residential care homes or chronic disease hospitals that she deems necessary to protect the health and welfare of patients, residents and staff.

2. This order supersedes paragraph 2 of Executive Order No. 7 ("Limits on Nursing Home Visitors"). All other provisions of Executive Order No. 7 remain in effect.

This order shall take effect immediately.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 13th day of March, 2020.

Ned Lamont

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State