EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-27-20

WHEREAS on March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the impacts of COVID-19 are far-reaching in sectors throughout California; and

WHEREAS the most critical health and safety standards must be our state's highest priority at this time given the emergency associated with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS healthcare and other residential and non-residential facilities licensed by the state, and particularly those serving senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, will face significant challenges with respect to staffing and capacity as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS it is imperative that monitoring and enforcement efforts among our state agencies, especially in these facilities and particularly those serving senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, are focused specifically on the safety of these populations and on compliance with the most critical protections for health and safety of all in these facilities; and

WHEREAS additional action and capacity are necessary to protect the health and safety of Californians receiving care in these critical facilities and in-home isolation; and

WHEREAS certain existing California state employees have skills, which can be immediately utilized in and to the benefit of these facilities, and in particular in those facilities providing services to senior citizens and other vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS I find it necessary to redirect these staff pursuant to Government Code section 3100, which allows me to reassign state workers as necessary to protect the public during an emergency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes of the State of California, and in particular, Government Code section 8567, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Department of Social Services, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, and the Department of Public Health, shall focus on those individuals who are most vulnerable and on the most serious health and safety issues at licensed facilities. Consistent with this directive:

i) licensing and enforcement staff shall focus on providing technical assistance and supporting compliance with core health and safety requirements for caregivers and the cared for;

ii) these Departments and Division, in consultation with the Health and Human Services Agency, shall immediately identify health and community care facilities, and other sites housing populations that are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, including but not limited to senior citizens and individuals who require assisted-living services due to chronic health conditions;

iii) these Departments and Division shall redirect resources to facilities identified pursuant to (ii) of this section;

iv) staff from these Departments and Division shall have primary focus on providing technical assistance and support to have maximum effect to address the risk of COVID-19;

v) consistent with these requirements, staff shall focus enforcement activities where there are allegations of the most serious violations impacting health and safety.

2. The Health and Human Services Agency shall develop alternatives, in consultation with counties and representatives of labor organizations and consumers, to leverage the in home supportive services programs, the adult protective services programs, the area agencies on aging and regional centers, and other programs to support the home isolation of vulnerable Californians, including seniors and those with serious chronic underlying health conditions.

3. To address increased demand for healthcare workers and first responders, Emergency Medical Services Authority, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Public Health shall authorize first responders, health and human services care providers and workers who are asymptomatic to continue working during the period of this emergency, subject to those responders, providers, and workers taking precautions to prevent transmission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person. The State shall be immune from any liability resulting from implementation of this Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 15th day of March 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State