STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-21

HEALTH CLUBS

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, through Executive Order No. 103 (2020), the facts and circumstances of which are adopted by reference herein, the Governor declared both a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency throughout the State due to the public health hazard posed by Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, to further protect the health, safety and welfare of New Jersey residents by, among other things, reducing the rate of community spread of COVID-19, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 107 (2020) on March 21, 2020, the facts and circumstances of which are also adopted by reference herein, which established enhanced social mitigation strategies for combating COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, through Executive Order Nos. 119, 138, 151, 162, 171, and 180 (2020), issued on April 7, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 4, 2020, July 2, 2020, August 1, 2020, and August 27, 2020, respectively, the facts and circumstances of which are adopted by reference herein, the Governor declared that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency continued to exist and declared that all Executive Orders and Administrative Orders adopted in whole or in part in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency remained in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Paragraph 9 of Executive Order No. 107 (2020), the Governor ordered closed to the public all recreational and entertainment businesses, including gyms and fitness centers; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020, through Executive Order No. 157 (2020), the Governor authorized the reopening of recreational entertainment businesses, both indoor and outdoor, but required that the indoor premises of health clubs, as well as any health club facility located in hotels, motels, condominiums, cooperatives, corporate offices, or other business facilities remain closed to the public; and

WHEREAS, as the Governor has observed, as the rate of reported new cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey decreases, including a reduction in the total number of individuals being admitted to hospitals for COVID-19, the state has taken and can take steps to lift certain restrictions that were designed to limit person-to-person contact; and

WHEREAS, even as the rate of reported new cases of COVID-19 decreases, the ongoing risks presented by COVID-19 mean that many of the State's current measures must remain in place, both to reduce additional new infections and to save lives; and

WHEREAS, because of this continued progress, most recreational and entertainment businesses can allow the public into their indoor spaces for activity, as long as there are strict capacity limits and individuals are wearing face coverings; and

WHEREAS, while gyms and fitness centers involve people congregating in a confined space and exercising, individuals are typically utilizing the facility for a short period of time, so that with strict mitigation protocols in place, safe operations can resume inside the facilities; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2020, through Executive Order No. 181 (2020), the Governor authorized the reopening of the indoor premises of health clubs, including gyms and fitness centers, provided that those facilities adopt minimum specified health and safety requirements; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 181 (2020) granted the State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of the State Police, the discretion to make additions, amendments, clarifications, exceptions, and exclusions to the terms of that Order; and

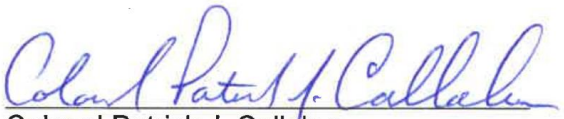
WHEREAS, health club facilities located in hotels, motels, condominiums, cooperatives, corporate offices, or other business facilities also constitute health clubs that can safely reopen provided that they adopt minimum health and safety requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patrick J. Callahan, State Director of Emergency Management, hereby CLARIFY and ORDER as follows:

1. Health club facilities located in hotels, motels, condominiums, cooperatives, corporate offices, or other business facilities may open their indoor premises, but those that are open to the public, and not only to guests, residents, and employees, must conform to the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Executive Order No. 181 (2020) and associated guidance issued by the New Jersey Department of Health.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately, and shall remain in effect for as long as Executive Order No. 181 (2020) remains in effect or until I issue a subsequent amending Administrative Order.

September 5, 2020



Colonel Patrick J. Callahan
State Director of Emergency Management