Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIRECTIVE AND ORDER REGARDING OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to Md. Code Annotated, Health-General §§ 2-104, 18-102, 18-103 and Public Safety §§ 14-106, 14-107

I, Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health, finding it necessary for the prevention and control of 2019 Novel Coronavirus ("2019-nCoV") and for the protection of individuals and staff in health care facilities and community-based programs, hereby issue this Order and Directive ("Order") regarding oversight of health care facilities and community-based programs by the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality ("OHCQ").

1. Effective immediately, to best protect the health and safety of individuals and staff in health care facilities and community-based programs, as well as other Marylanders, and regardless of any statute or regulation to the contrary, the OHCQ's licensing, oversight and inspection activities shall be limited to the following activities:

a. Administrative review and triage of all complaints and facility-reported incidents.

b. On-site investigations of those complaints and facility-reported incidents that are triaged as an immediate jeopardy and any follow-up visits necessary to confirm abatement of the immediate jeopardy situation.

c. Off-site processing of initial licensure applications and requests to increase capacity. An on-site visit will be conducted only if required for providers to seek reimbursement.

d. Other investigations if determined by the OHCQ's Executive Director or Designee to be imperative to protect the health and safety of Marylanders.

2. This Order applies to the following health care facilities and programs that OHCQ oversees in Maryland:

Adult Medical Day Care Centers

Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Assisted Living Programs

Birthing Centers

Community Mental Health Centers

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities

Correctional Health Facilities

Cosmetic Surgery Facilities

Developmental Disabilities Sites

Employer Drug Testing Facilities

End Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Centers

Federally Qualified Health Centers

Forensic Residential Centers

Freestanding Medical Facilities

Health Awareness Testing Sites

Health Care Staff Agencies

Health Maintenance Organizations

Home Health Agencies

Hospice Houses

Hospices

Hospitals

Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

Laboratories, including Cholesterol Testing Sites, Federally Waived Laboratories, Forensic Laboratories, Hospital Laboratories, Independent Reference Laboratories, Physician Office Laboratories, Point-of-Care Laboratories

Limited Private Inpatient Facilities

Long Term Care Facilities

Major Medical Equipment Providers

Nurse Referral Agencies

Outpatient Physical Therapy Providers

Portable X-Ray Providers

Public Health Testing Sites

Residential Service Agencies

Residential Treatment Centers

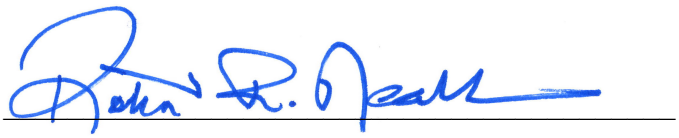
Rural Health Clinics

Surgical Abortion Facilities

Tissue Banks

Transplant Centers

THIS DIRECTIVE AND ORDER IS ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 16TH DAY OF MARCH 2020 AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.



Robert R. Neall

Secretary of Health