GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order 2020-07

Proactive Measures to Protect Against COVID-19

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Secretary Alex Azar of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, declared a public health emergency to address the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, I, as Governor of the State of Arizona, issued a declaration of Public Health Emergency due to the necessity to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 11, 2020, there have been 9 diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in Arizona including cases of community spread, and it is likely that there will continue to be additional cases diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is contagious and can be fatal; and

WHEREAS, the elderly population and those with serious underlying health conditions are most at risk from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is important to institute enhanced protections at facilities that treat and house populations most at risk if they contract COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that all Arizonans who need to be tested for COVID-19 have access to testing that is covered by their healthcare insurance and that both providers and consumers are not subject to price gouging as it relates to COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment related services; and

WHEREAS, visits by telemedicine can reduce the spread of disease by allowing potentially contagious patients to see a doctor without visiting an office, clinic, urgent care center or hospital where other individuals could be exposed.

NOW THEREFORE I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state hereby order as follows:

1. The Department of Health Services shall issue emergency rules for skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities and assisted living facilities to implement visitor policies designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including:

   a. Instituting policies to require screening and triage before entry by staff, visitors, vendors, and contractors;
   b. Establishing disinfectant schedules for frequently touched surfaces; and
   c. Establishing policies of distancing patients who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 from other patients in common areas.

2. The Department of Health Services in conjunction with the Department of Insurance shall require that all insurers regulated by the State cover COVID-19 diagnostic testing from all qualified laboratories without regard to whether the laboratory is in-network.

3. The Department of Health Services in conjunction with the Department of Insurance shall require that all insurers regulated by the State waive all cost-sharing requirements for consumers related to COVID-19 diagnostic testing.

4. The Department of Health Services in conjunction with the Department of Insurance shall require that all insurers regulated by the State cover telemedicine visits at a lower cost-sharing point for consumers than the same in-office service to encourage utilization of telemedicine for the duration of the state's public health emergency.

5. The Department of Health Services and all Arizona health regulatory boards shall prohibit, investigate, and take action against any licensed health professional or healthcare institution that engages in price gouging in relation to COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment-related services. In this context, price gouging is defined as the provider or institution charging a grossly higher price than that which was charged before the onset of the emergency.

6. The Attorney General shall investigate and vigorously prosecute complaints of consumer fraud in relation to COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment-related services under the consumer protection laws.

7. This executive order shall expire upon the termination of the Declaration of Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19 and dated March 11, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

ATTEST:

Douglas A. Ducey

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 11th day of March in the Year Two Thousand Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the Year Two Hundred and Forty-Fourth.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State