STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7F

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – FURTHER CROWD REDUCTION AND OTHER MEASURES

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, my Executive Order No. 7, dated March 12, 2020, among other things, prohibited gatherings of 250 people or more for social and recreational activities, including but not limited to, community, civic, leisure, and sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; movie screenings; plays or performances; conventions; and similar activities, and suspended various statutes and regulations to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No.7A, dated March 13, 2020, authorized the Commissioner of Public Health to restrict entrance into nursing homes and similar facilities to protect people who are most vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7B, dated March 14, 2020, among other things, modified in-person open meetings requirements, waived certain rules to mitigate the critical shortage of hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment (PPE), maintain and increase the availability of childcare, and provide for increased healthcare resources and facilities; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order 7C, dated March 15, 2020, among other things, cancelled classes in public schools for at least two weeks, provided for closure and remote conduct of business at Department of Motor Vehicle branches, extended deadlines for municipal budget preparations, and suspended or modified laws and regulations governing health care data and visitation at certain health care and congregate care settings; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order 7D, dated March 16, 2020, restricted social and recreational gatherings of all types to fewer than 50 people, closed bars and restaurants to all service except food and non-alcoholic beverage takeout and delivery, closed gyms, fitness centers and movie theaters, and prohibited on-site operations at off-track betting facilities; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order 7E, dated March 17, 2020, among other things, waived the requirement for an 180-day school year, suspended fingerprinting availability to that for critical requirements, extended the duration of various licenses and permits under the authority of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and public protection, and suspended certain requirements for recoupment of overpayment and hearings conducted by the Department of Social Services; 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 appears to be higher for individuals who are 60 years of age or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce 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 transmission of the virus, including cancellation of gatherings of fifty people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, there exists a critical need to protect the health of residents and patients of various types of nursing, long term care, and psychiatric facilities while providing for essential legal proceedings under the authority of the Probate Court in order to protect the legal rights of certain such residents; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7C ordered the cancellation of classes at all public schools throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut Unified School District 1 (established per Section 18-99a) and Unified School District 2 (established per Section 17a-37), and Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services inpatient facilities providing school classes, are uniquely situated entities and require individualized considerations to maintain stability for the population; and

WHEREAS, the existing COVID-19 pandemic and the accelerating spread of the disease in Connecticut require additional, extraordinary mitigation and social distancing measures, particularly in response to incidents of large gatherings resulting from school cancellations, to protect the public health and safety of our citizens; and

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. **Closure of Large Shopping Malls.** For purposes of this Order, "Large Shopping Malls" means the Brass Mill Center in Waterbury, the Connecticut Post Mall in Milford, the Crystal Mall in Waterford, the Danbury Fair Mall in Danbury, the Stamford Town Center in Stamford, The Shoppes at Buckland Hills in Manchester, the SoNo Collection in Norwalk, Westfarms Mall in

Farmington, the Westfield Mall in Meriden and the Westfield Mall in Trumbull. Effective at 8 p.m. on March 19, 2020 and through April 30, 2020, unless earlier modified, extended, or terminated by me, all indoor common areas of Large Shopping Malls shall be closed to the public. Any stores, pharmacies, restaurants or other establishments located within or connected to Large Shopping Malls, which have their own external entrances and exits, separate from the general entrances to the Large Shopping Malls, may remain open to the public, provided that (a) only the separate entrances and exits are used; (b) any restaurant or eating establishment and any location licensed for on-premise consumption of alcoholic liquor shall remain subject to Executive Order No. 7D, which requires all such restaurants and establishments to only serve food or non-alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption; (c) any interior entrances to common areas of the Large Shopping Malls remain closed to the public; and (d) they abide by and comply with all state and local health and safety codes and ordinances and any other existing or future Executive Orders issued pursuant to the current Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency.

2. **Closure of Places of Public Amusement.** Effective at 8:00 p.m. on March 19, 2020 and through April 30, 2020, unless earlier modified, extended, or terminated by me, all places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to, locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, aquariums, zoos, arcades, fairs, funplexes, theme parks, bowling alleys, and other family and children's amusement attractions shall be closed to the public. This directive shall not apply to public parks and open recreation areas.

3. **Expansion of Medicaid Telehealth Coverage to Audio-Only Telephone.** Section 17b-262 of the Connecticut General Statutes and any implementing regulations, policies rules or other directives related to the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program, whether or not specifically adopted pursuant to said statute, are modified to authorize the Commissioner of Social Services to temporarily waive any requirements contained therein as the Commissioner deems necessary to enable the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program to cover applicable services provided through audio-only telehealth services. The Commissioner may issue any order and take other action that she deems necessary to implement this order.

4. **Waiver of In-Person Service, Hearing, and Screening Requirements for Facilities that Have Issued Orders Limiting Visitor Access to Protect the Public Health.** Notwithstanding sections 52-57(a), 45a-644 through 45a-667u, 17a-495 through 17a-528, 17a-540 through 17a-550, 45a-669 through 45a-683, and 45a-703 of the Connecticut General Statutes, 1) any requirement for personal service is waived as it relates to any person currently located in a facility that has restricted visitor access under an emergency order issued by a

state agency pursuant to an Executive Order, and service may be made by serving an administrator or the administrator's designee provided that the administrator or administrator's designee shall sign a certification, provided by the process server, that the named party is currently located in the facility and that the administrator or administrator's designee will personally serve the named party; and 2) any requirement for an in-person meeting, hearing, or screening is waived and meetings, hearings, or screenings may take place by any other method that allows for the participation of the interested parties. For the purposes of this order, "administrator" shall mean the nursing home administrator or such other person with administrative oversight of the facility who is on site at the time of service.

5. **Continuation of Classes and Programming at Certain State-operated Schools.** Connecticut Unified School District 1, established per Section 18-99a of the Connecticut General Statutes, Unified School District 2, established pursuant to Section 17a-37, and Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services inpatient facilities providing school classes or programs are exempt from Section 1 of Executive Order No. 7C, which cancelled school classes throughout the state.

Unless specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified by me.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 18th day of March, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State