CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR

Emergency Order # 17 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04

Closure of non-essential businesses and requiring Granite Staters to stay at home

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-04, An order declaring a state of emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor activated the Emergency Operations Center at the Incident Planning and Operations Center in Concord to assist in the State's response to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, March 15, 2020, the Governor issued Emergency Order #1, instructing all New Hampshire schools to close and to transition to temporary and remote instruction; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 16, 2020, the Governor issued Emergency Order #2, temporarily prohibiting gatherings of 50 or more attendees and prohibiting onsite food and beverage consumption throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 23, 2020, the first New Hampshire death resulting from COVID-19 occurred; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 23, 2020, the Governor issued Emergency Order #16, temporarily prohibiting scheduled gatherings of 10 or more attendees; and

WHEREAS, as of Thursday, March 26, 2020, the CDC reports 54,453 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have occurred in the United States with 737 deaths; and

WHEREAS, experts anticipate that while a high percentage of individuals affected by COVID-19 will experience mild flu-like symptoms, some will have more serious symptoms and require hospitalization, particularly individuals who are elderly or already have underlying chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, experts indicate that COVID-19 is most commonly spread from an infected symptomatic person to others through respiratory droplets, including:

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- Through the air by coughing and sneezing;
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands;
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that COVID-19 may be spread before an infected person shows symptoms of the virus; and

WHEREAS, as of Thursday, March 26, 2020, the CDC reports 27 U.S. states are reporting some community spread of COVID-19, meaning people have been infected with the virus who may not have the usual risks of international travel or known contact with a confirmed case; and

WHEREAS, in the days since the Governor declared a State of Emergency, the COVID-19 outbreak in New Hampshire has expanded significantly; and

WHEREAS, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in the State: as of March 26, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services has reported 158 cases of COVID-19, of which 33 are healthcare workers, 1 death, 16 hospitalizations; 650 individuals being monitored; 592 persons with tests pending at the Public Health Lab; and 9 of the 10 counties in the State have been impacted; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health has found that community-based transmission of COVID-19 continues to increase in the State and has been identified in the majority of counties; and

WHEREAS, state and local health and emergency response organizations must use all available preventative measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, which will require access to services, personnel, equipment, facilities, and other resources, potentially including resources beyond those currently available, to prepare for and respond to any potential cases and the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, if COVID-19 spreads in New Hampshire at a rate comparable to the rate of spread in other states and countries, the number of persons requiring medical care may exceed locally available resources, and controlling outbreaks minimizes the risk to the public, maintains the health and safety of the people of New Hampshire, and limits the spread of infection in our communities and within the healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Hampshire, to implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization.

Now therefore, pursuant to Section 18 of Executive Order 2020-04, it is hereby ordered, effective immediately, that:

1. The services identified in EXHIBIT A are hereby designated as "Essential Services." Additional services may be designated as Essential and added to EXHIBIT A with

written approval of the Commissioner of Business and Economic Affairs and the Governor.

2. All businesses and other organizations that do not provide Essential Services shall close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers, and the public and cease all in person operations as of 11:59 p.m. on March 27, 2020 and shall not re-open to workers, customers or the public or resume in person operations before 12:01 a.m. on May 4, 2020.

3. All businesses or other organizations providing Essential Services shall develop strategies, procedures and practices to allow for social distancing protocols consistent with guidance provided by the CDC and the Division of Public Health.

4. Beginning at 11:59 p.m. on March 27, 2020, New Hampshire citizens shall stay at home or in their place of residence with the following exceptions:

    a) Leaving home to get fresh air or exercise, provided that social distancing protocols consistent with guidance from the Division of Public Health are observed;
    b) Leaving home for outdoor recreation provided that appropriate social distancing protocols are observed and provided that such recreation complies with any limitations contained within Executive Order 2020-04 and any Emergency Orders issued pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04;
    c) Leaving home to run essential errands such as going to the grocery store, pharmacy, laundromat, or fulfilling any other errands an individual determines to be essential for everyday needs;
    d) Leaving home to visit a spouse, parent, or child;
    e) Leaving home to provide care for another person;
    f) Leaving home to go to the gas station;
    g) Leaving home to order and pick up take-out food;
    h) Receiving deliveries from Amazon, UPS, Fedex, the U.S. Postal Service, or any other deliveries;
    i) Leaving home to receive essential medical care or essential medical services;
    j) Leaving home for purposes of an individual's employment if the individual is employed at a business or organization that provides Essential Services or a business or organization to whom this Order does not apply pursuant to Sections 5-7; and
    k) Leaving home for purposes of employment in cases where an individual is working remotely for a business that does not provide Essential Services.

5. This Order shall not apply to any K-12 schools within this State.

6. This Order shall not apply to State Government, local and county governments, local and county legislative bodies, the General Court, or the Judicial Branch.

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7. This Order shall not apply to any church, synagogue, mosque, or other house of worship, provided that those organizations must still comply with Emergency Order #16.

8. The Division of Public Health and State or local police shall have the authority to enforce this Order.

9. This Order shall remain in effect until May 4, 2020.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 26th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-four.

GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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