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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**STATE OF FLORIDA**
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

In Re:

EXTENSION OF SUSPENSION OF STATUTES, RULES AND ORDERS, MADE NECESSARY BY COVID-19.

DOH No. 20-012

**EMERGENCY ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19, and allowing for the waiver of certain statutes and rules that prevent, hinder, or delay any necessary action in coping with the state of emergency caused by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to waive certain statutes and rules of the Florida Department of Health in order to effectively respond to the emergency caused by COVID-19, including certain statutes or preventing the safe and efficient provision of health care services to patients in the state of Florida.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, SCOTT A. RIVKEES, M.D.**, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No. 20-52, as extended by Executive Order No. 20-114 and 20-166, find that strict compliance with the provisions of certain regulatory

statutes and rules prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business by the Florida Department of Health will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency caused by COVID-19. In order to effectively respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 it is necessary to promulgate the following:

Section 1:

For purposes of preparing for, responding to, and mitigating any effect of COVID-19, health care practitioners holding valid, unrestricted and unencumbered inactive licenses as physicians under chapters 458 or 459, physician assistants under chapters 458 or 459, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses under part I of chapter 464, respiratory therapists under part V of chapter 468, and emergency medical technicians and paramedics under part III of chapter 401, who reactivate their licenses in response to the public health emergency may remain in active status for the duration of the public health emergency unless the State Health Officer determines that the health care practitioner is no longer needed to provide services during the public health emergency. Any statute and/or rule to the contrary is hereby suspended.

Section 2:

For purposes of preparing for, responding to, and mitigating any effect of COVID-19, I extend the provisions of DOH Emergency Order 20-008 suspending the provisions of sections 466.006 and 466.007 that would prohibit the use of mannequins or simulated patients in lieu of live patients during the administration of the American Dental Licensing Examination and Dental Hygiene Examination. Any statute and/or rule to the contrary is hereby suspended until November 30, 2020.

Section 3:

For purposes of preparing for, responding to, and mitigating any effect of COVID-19, I extend the provisions of DOH Emergency Order 20-008 suspending the provisions of section 464.203(1)(b), that requires a skills demonstration examination for exam candidates who have successfully completed a Board of Nursing approved CNA training program within the past six months. Any statute and/or rule to the contrary is hereby suspended until November 30, 2020.

Section 4:

For purposes of preparing for, responding to, and mitigating any effect of COVID-19, any upcoming licensure renewal deadlines between August 31 and October 31, 2020, that have not otherwise been extended, for any professional license issued by the Department or a Department board or council are extended until November 30, 2020. Any statute and/or rule to the contrary is hereby suspended until November 30, 2020, unless extended by order of the State Surgeon General.

Because section 252.36(5)(a), Florida Statutes, allows the Governor to suspend the provisions of "any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for [the] conduct of state business," and because Section 4. B. of Executive Order No. 20-52 provides the State Surgeon General with the authority to issue this Emergency Order, the requirements of sections 252.46 and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, do not apply to this Order. This order shall remain in effect until the expiration of Executive Order No. 20-52, including any extensions thereof, unless otherwise modified by order of the State Surgeon General.

Executed this 14th day of August 2020, in Department of Health Offices, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.

Scott A. Rivkees, M.D.
State Surgeon General