EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-39-20

WHEREAS on March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS despite sustained efforts, COVID-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate, threatening to overwhelm California's healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS California is preparing for a surge in the number of people who will need hospital care during the COVID-19 outbreak by increasing the number of hospital beds and post-acute care facilities that can treat and serve patients; and

WHEREAS this anticipated increase in the use of the healthcare system will require an increase in the health care workforce such as nurses, doctors, medical assistants, and emergency medical technicians; and

WHEREAS maximizing the number of qualified and capable medical and healthcare workers in service in California is imperative to ensure that Californians impacted by COVID-19 can access medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated surge requires temporary adjustment of California's staffing and health and safety standards for health providers and health facilities, which are among the strongest in the nation, as numerous professionals are unable to satisfy professional licensing requirements in light of the COVID-19 pandemic that then subsequently prevent them from providing necessary medical and healthcare assistance to the public; and

WHEREAS, our most vulnerable residents who rely on state and local government for social services need additional support during this time; and

WHEREAS the Department of Developmental Services operates Stabilization, Training, Assistance and Reintegration (STAR) community crisis homes to treat individuals with developmental disabilities in acute crisis and additional STAR homes are required to provide treatment to such individuals and to protect the public health during the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS federal guidance permits monthly caseworker visits with children under court jurisdiction to be accomplished through videoconferencing in limited circumstances, such as a declaration of an emergency that prohibits or strongly discourages face-to-face contact for public health reasons; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes of the State of California, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567 and 8571, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1) To assist in the care and/or to protect the health of individuals in hospitals and other health facilities, and due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the director of the State Department of Public Health may, to the extent necessary and only for the duration of the declared emergency, waive any of the licensing and staffing requirements of chapters 2 and 2.4 of division 2 of the Health and Safety Code and any accompanying regulations with respect to any hospital or health facility identified in Health and Safety Code section 1250. Any waiver shall include alternative measures that, under the circumstances, will allow the facilities to treat patients while protecting public health and safety. To the extent the facility maintains a disaster and mass casualty plan, the facility granted a waiver shall be established and operate in accordance with that plan. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Department's website.

2) To facilitate the continued provision of care due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the director of the State Department of Public Health may, to the extent necessary and only for the duration of the declared emergency, waive any of the professional licensing and certification requirements and amend scopes of practice of chapters 2, 2.35, and 8 of division 2 of the Health and Safety Code and any accompanying regulations with respect to certified nursing assistants, home health aides, and nursing home administrators, and chapter 3, division 2 of the Business and Professions Code and accompanying regulations with respect to certified hemodialysis technicians. The Department shall provide guidance to facilities directing the appropriate qualifications and scope of practice for each classification operating under a waiver based on sound clinical guidelines and the individual's training, education, and work experience. Any waiver shall include alternative measures that, under the circumstances, will allow the facilities to treat patients while protecting public health and safety. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Department's website.

3) The certification and permitting requirements of the Radiologic Technology Act (as identified in Health and Safety Code section 27) are, only for the duration of the declared emergency, suspended for all persons:

   (i) whose certificate or permit issued pursuant to the Radiological Technology Act is expired, regardless of expiration date, or has been canceled; or

   (ii) who hold Radiography certification issued by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or are an American Registry of Radiologic Technologists Registered Radiologist Assistant; or

   (iii) who are credentialed as Radiology Practitioner Assistants by the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner Assistants; or

(iv) who are certified, permitted or otherwise authorized to perform radiologic technology by passing a State-required examination by a state other than the State of California; and

(v) who are working under the supervision of a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act, except that the requirement to be under supervision shall not apply to a licentiate of the healing arts, as defined in the Radiological Technology Act; and

(vi) who are deemed by a health facility as necessary workforce for purposes of this Order.

The specific certification requirements of Health and Safety Code section 107110 are suspended for any person who is licensed under the Medical Practice Act (Business and Professions Code sections 2000, et seq.). Except for persons licensed under the Medical Practice Act, this suspension of certification and permitting requirements shall not apply to persons who have never been either certified or permitted by the Department of Public Health, or certified, permitted, or otherwise authorized by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner Assistants, or any other state. This suspension of certification and permitting requirements shall also not apply to persons whose certificate, permit, or other authorization has been revoked or suspended for cause by the Department of Public Health, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner Assistants, or any other state.

4) To ensure hospitals are adequately prepared and staffed to treat COVID-19 patients, the Director of the State Department of Public Health may temporarily waive licensing requirements in Health and Safety Code section 1277 and sections 70203(a)(2), 70701(a)(1)(E), 70703(b), and 70705(a) of Chapter 1, Article 3, of Title 22, that pertain to the credentialing and privileging of physicians. Any waiver shall include alternate measures that, under the circumstances, ensure the competency of physicians providing medical services at the hospital.

5) To facilitate the continued provision of care to individuals affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs may to the extent necessary and only for the duration of the declared emergency, waive any of the professional licensing requirements and amend scopes of practice in Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, and any accompanying regulations. Professional licensing requirements should be interpreted broadly to effectuate the purposes of this executive order, and they include, but are not limited to, the examination, education, experience, and training requirements necessary to obtain and maintain licensure, and requirements governing the practice and permissible activities for licensees. The Department, in conjunction with the relevant licensing board, shall provide guidance identifying the appropriate qualifications and scope of practice for each classification operating under a waiver based on sound clinical guidelines and the individual's training, education, and work experience. Any waiver may include alternative measures that, under the circumstances, will allow the regulated individual to treat patients while protecting public health

and safety. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Department's website.

6) To ensure the continued operation of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system without unduly endangering the people of California during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority may as necessary and only for the duration of the declared emergency, suspend any licensing, certification, or training requirements for EMS personnel as contained in the EMS Act Chapters 2, 3, and 4, and accompanying regulations, including the authority to permit EMS personnel to provide services in any setting as authorized by the Director for the performance of the current scope of practice. The Authority shall provide guidance to local emergency medical services authorities directing the appropriate qualifications and scope of practice for each classification operating under a waiver based on sound clinical guidelines and the individual's training, education, and work experience. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Authority's website.

7) Notwithstanding the Government Code section 14669, or any other law, the Director of the Department of Developmental Services has the authority to enter into a lease, lease-purchase, lease with option to purchase any real or personal property or any other agreement to procure residences or facilities and necessary equipment, goods or services to serve those individuals with development disabilities in crisis, to respond to, mitigate the effects or prevent the spread of COVID-19 to individuals with developmental disabilities or the general community. The leases or agreements may be executed without the review or prior approval of any other state department or agency. The leases or agreements executed pursuant to this provision shall be in effect so long as necessary to address the COVID-19 crisis or its effects.

8) The Department of Social Services may, to the extent the Department deems necessary to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, allow any state monthly face-to-face caseworker visitation requirement, standard, or criteria set forth in the Welfare and Institutions Code sections 16501.1, subdivision (l), 16516.5, and 16516.6, as well as accompanying regulations or other written directives, policies or procedures, to be accomplished through videoconferencing, instead of in-person contact. This flexibility shall only be utilized by caseworkers in keeping with guidance from the Department and after a child-specific decision based on the training and experience of the social worker, considering all available information, that an in-person visit is not necessary to ensure the child's safety and well-being. Any flexibility granted pursuant to this paragraph shall not waive or conflict with applicable federal requirements in United States Code, Title 42, sections 622, subdivision (b)(17) and 624, subdivision (f), as modified for emergency waivers in guidance issued March 18, 2020, in the Child Welfare Policy Manual Title IV-B, section 7.3, question 8and shall expire at the end of the emergency declaration, in 90 days, or sooner as determined by the Department. Any flexibility granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted to the Department's website.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 30th day of March 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State