STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1518

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Mississippi significantly impacts the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health announced new and expanded measures to increase testing and data analysis to identify regions and localities that are at higher risk for transmission of COVID-19 and to provide more location-specific restrictions and limitation of movement and social interaction to combat the virus in those regions and localities; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1492 establishing the statewide Safe Return order to restart the economy, open all businesses and non-profits operating within the State of Mississippi, and permit the resumption of community activities subject to limitations to minimize person to person interactions and associated risk of transmission of COVID-19 effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020, and remaining in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 1492, as amended and extended by Executive Orders 1496, 1500, 1505, 1508, 1511, 1514 and 1516 has been extended and remains in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi must protect lives while restoring livelihoods, both of which can be achieved with the expert advice of medical professionals and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, continuing to follow a measured and strategic plan to allow all businesses and non-profits to continue to operate within the State of Mississippi is essential to the health, safety and well-being of Mississippi residents; and

WHEREAS, the key to reducing the community transmission of COVID-19 and keeping all Mississippi schools open is for all Mississippians to consistently wear a face covering while in public spaces, to practice social distancing from persons not in the same household and to maintain good hand hygiene; and

WHEREAS, a further measure necessary to keep all Mississippi K-12 schools open and further reduce community transmission of COVID-19 is to temporarily limit attendance at K-12 outdoor and indoor organized extracurricular events to allowing these events to safely continue; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the State Health Officer, it is necessary to further extend the Safe Return order as previously amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. The statewide Safe Return instituted in Executive Order 1492, as amended and extended by Executive Orders 1496, 1500, 1505, 1508, 1511, 1514 and 1516 is further extended and shall remain in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 31, 2020, except as follows:

a. Paragraph I of Executive Order 1492 is amended to add subparagraph (n) as follows:

n. K-12 Organized Extracurricular Events: Attendance at K-12 outdoor and indoor organized extracurricular events, including but not limited to athletic competitions, band performances and concerts, cheer performances, and theater performances shall be permitted subject to the following limitations:

i. Attendance shall be limited to two attendees per student participating in the event (for example, team member, band member, cast member) excluding coaches, directors, teachers, officials, medical personnel, staff/workers and media.

ii. Face coverings are required pursuant to Paragraph I(a) of Executive Order 1516 and Paragraph I of Executive Order 1517 (including the exceptions contained therein) as follows:

A) Indoor Events: All attendees shall wear a face covering, covering the nose and mouth at all times while attending an ***indoor*** K-12 organized extracurricular event including when in transit to or from their seat (including at the ticket gate, in concourses and elevators), in restrooms, in concession sales areas and in seating areas.

B) Outdoor Events: All attendees shall wear a face covering, covering the nose and mouth while attending an ***outdoor*** K-12 organized extracurricular event when in transit to or from their seat (including at the ticket gate, in concourses and elevators), in restrooms, in concession sales areas, and at all other times when it is not possible to maintain a minimum of six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household.(***NOTE*** wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged even when social distancing is possible).

C) Employees, Staff And Volunteers: All employees, staff, workers and volunteers shall wear a face covering, covering the nose and mouth.

iii. Attendees shall at all times attempt to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from persons not in their household.

iv. Prominent signage shall be posted at all points of entry mandating that a face covering shall be worn in compliance with the requirements herein and that attendees shall maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from all persons not in their household.

v. Pursuant to Paragraph I(a) of Executive Order 1500, concession stands may be open subject to the following limitations: (1) staff/workers operating the concession stand that come into direct contact with customers shall be provided a face covering and required to wear the face covering; (2) social distancing (of a minimum of six feet) shall be observed by customers/guests waiting in line at the concession stand; (3) customers/guests are not permitted to congregate in the area of the concession stand; and (4) before beginning their work shift, all concession stand employees and volunteers shall be screened pursuant to Paragraph I(b)(iii) of Executive Order 1491.

vi. Every K-12 organized extracurricular event shall have a dedicated Safety Officer to ensure that all limitations contained in this Executive Order are observed and enforced. The Safety Officer shall have sufficient staff to ensure compliance with these limitations.

II. This Executive Order shall be effective at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020, and shall remain in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 31, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

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

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 14 day of August, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE