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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. 20-004

## 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 1, 2020, I declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order number 20-51; 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**, on March 16, 2020, I issued DOH Emergency Order 20-002 suspending certain rules and statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued the "15 Days to Slow the Spread" guidance advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures; and

**WHEREAS**, as March 29, 2020, the President extended such guidance to be in effect until April 30, 2020; 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, 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, the provisions of DOH Emergency Order 20-002 are extended until May 8, 2020, unless extended by the 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. The effective dates of this Order shall correspond with the effective dates of Executive Order No. 20-52, unless otherwise specified above.

Executed this 15th day of April 2020, in Department of Health Offices, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.

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