# STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

# EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## At Charleston

# EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 79-20

## By the Governor

**WHEREAS,** a State of Emergency was declared on the Sixteenth Day of March, Two Thousand Twenty for all counties in West Virginia (the "State of Emergency Declaration"), to allow agencies to coordinate and create necessary measures to prepare for and respond to the outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 6 of the Code of West Virginia authorizes the Governor, among other things, to enforce all laws and rules relating to the provision of emergency services and to assume direct operational control of any or all emergency service forces and helpers in the state, to use available resources of the state and of its political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the emergency, and to perform and exercise other functions, powers, and duties that are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population; and

**WHEREAS,** individuals who reside in nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout the state are some of the most vulnerable in our population and any instance of the COVID-19 virus at such a facility presents a serious issue that must be continuously monitored, identified, and responded to; and

**WHEREAS,** the doctors, nurses, staff, and employees working in those nursing homes and assisted living facilities must likewise be closely monitored and protected for their own safety and to ensure the safety of the residents of such facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, West Virginia's public health experts have advised that mandating that all doctors, nurses, staff, and employees of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities in this state be tested for COVID-19 twice per week, is appropriate at this time

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM JUSTICE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 6 and Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 1 of the Code of West Virginia, hereby **DECLARE** and **ORDER**, that all doctors, nurses, staff, and employees working at nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout the state shall be tested for COVID-19 twice a week until the issuance of a subsequent order modifying, amending, or terminating this Order.

[*Signature Page Follows*]

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**DONE** at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Thirteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty in the One Hundred Fifty-eighth year of the State.

**GOVERNOR**

**By the Governor**

**SECRETARY OF STATE**