Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIRECTIVE AND ORDER FOR IDENTIFICATION

OF NON-CONGREGANT HOUSING SETTINGS

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. §§ 18-102, 18-902, and 18-905, and Public Safety § 14-3A-03

I, Robert R. Neall, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health, finding it necessary for the control and medical containment of 2019 Novel Coronavirus ("SARS-CoV-2") and the disease that it causes – Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"), and for the investigation of actual or potential exposures to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, hereby make the following findings regarding the need for non-congregant sheltering options and direct and order local jurisdictions to identify and reserve non-congregant housing options.

1. Scientific evidence has been collected in connection with SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, and found that the disease is capable of causing extensive loss of life or serious disability, and is identified in Maryland's public health laws as a "deadly agent." See Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. § 18-901(c); Public Safety § 14-3A-01(c).

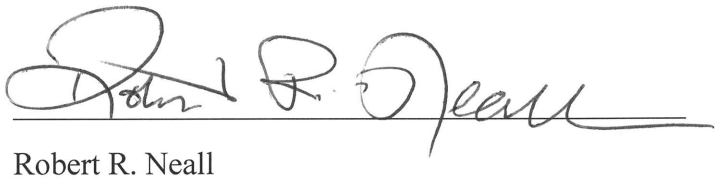
2. The World Health Organization ("WHO") and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") have declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constitutes a global pandemic. The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has also declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; the President of the United States Donald J. Trump has declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a national emergency; and the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland, has declared a state of emergency and the existence of a catastrophic health emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak within the State.

3. Quarantine and isolation of individuals who have, or have been exposed to, SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 is medically necessary and reasonable to prevent or reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19.

4. Health care workers, first responders, those who reside in congregant facilities, and vulnerable populations like the homeless need and do not always have access to adequate shelter for isolation or quarantine in the event they are found to have or be exposed to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19.

5. Therefore, local health officers in the State of Maryland are hereby directed and ordered to coordinate with local housing authorities, local emergency managers, and other appropriate partners to identify space in non-congregant settings for individuals in need of such housing for quarantine and isolation.

THIS DIRECTIVE AND ORDER IS ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 22ND DAY OF APRIL 2020 AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.



Robert R. Neall

Secretary of Health