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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO.: 20-011

Establishment of the Emergency Health Care Provider Registry

WHEREAS, Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease that is responsible for the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern," which means "an extraordinary event which is determined to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response," and thereafter raised its global risk assessment of COVID-19 from "high" to "very high"; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the Secretary of the United States' Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the CDC expects that additional cases of COVID-19 will be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States, and that person-to-person spread is likely to continue to occur; and

WHEREAS, as of April 28, 2020, the State has approximately 113,856 documented cases of COVID-19 and 6,442 deaths related to COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, the current rate of spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey is greatly straining the resources and health care, public health and support services personnel workforce; and

WHEREAS, projections indicate that the number of deaths related to COVID-19 cases may continue to increase to proportions that will strain the health care, public health and support services personnel workforce, who are needed to care for individuals affected by COVID-19 and to provide critical public health and support services; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to prepare for increasing strain on health care, public health and support service personnel workforce due to an increasing number of individuals hospitalized, quarantined and otherwise affected by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020 Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order 103, declaring the existence of a Public Health Emergency, pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act, N.J.S.A. 26: 13-1 et seq, and a State of Emergency, pursuant to the Disaster Control Act, in the State of New Jersey for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order 119 extending the Public Health Emergency declared on March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, under the declared public health emergency, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) is empowered, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:13-6, to establish a registry of health care workers, public health workers and support services personnel who voluntarily consent to provide health care, public health services and support logistics during a public health emergency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDITH PERSICHILLI, Commissioner of the DOH, pursuant to the powers afforded to me under the Emergency Health Powers Act, hereby ORDER and DIRECT the following:

1. **Registry – Establishment.** The Emergency Health Care Provider Registry (Registry) is hereby established for the registration of health care workers, public health workers and support services personnel who voluntarily consent to provide health care, public health services and support logistics during the public health emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020) and which was extended through Executive Order No. 119 (2020).

2. **Registry – Inclusion.** Individuals may be included in the Registry through the following methods:

    a. By completing an application for volunteer services within the Health Care Professional Call to Service Online Portal, which is accessible here: https://covid19.nj.gov/volunteer;

    b. Through the acceptance of a written designation of the Commissioner; or

    c. Through other methods as established by the Commissioner.

    The Commissioner retains the ultimate authority to approve an individual's inclusion in the Registry, which may include requiring training related to the provision of health care, public health services and support services.

3. **Identification Cards.** The Commissioner may issue identification cards to individuals included in the Registry and may publish supplemental guidance regarding the information contained in such cards and their distribution.

4. **Deployments.** The Commissioner is authorized to direct individuals registered in the Registry to proceed to any place in this State where health care services, public health services or other support services personnel are required by reason of the public health emergency.

    a. All such orders will be issued in writing by the Commissioner to:
        i. The individual providing services and will include information on the facility requiring services, the nature of the work to be performed, and the expected length of time of the deployment; and

        ii. The facility receiving services and will include information on the individuals being deployed to the facility, their credentials, the nature of the work they will be expected to perform, and the expected length of time of the deployment.

    b. Individuals who do not comply with such orders are subject to removal from the Registry.

5. **Liability – Health Care Services.** Emergency health care workers, public health workers and support services personnel registered in the Registry and directed by the Commissioner to proceed to any place in this State where health care workers, public health workers or support services personnel are required by any reason of the COVID-19 public health emergency and who provide health care services on a voluntary basis shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result of the person's acts or omissions in providing medical care or treatment related to the public health emergency in good faith and in accordance with the provisions of this act. N.J.S.A. 26:13-6

6. **Liability – Other.** Emergency health care workers, public health workers and support services personnel registered in the Emergency Health Care Provider Registry and directed by the Commissioner to proceed to any place in this State where health care workers, public health workers or support services personnel are required by any reason of the COVID-19 public health emergency shall not be liable for injury arising out of any act or omission, other than health care services, in connection with a public health emergency, or preparatory activities, provided that the action of the person or entity is undertaken pursuant to the exercise of this Order in accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:13-19 of the Emergency Health Powers Act.

This Directive shall take effect immediately. The provisions of this Directive shall remain in force and effect for the duration of the Public Health Emergency originally declared in EO 103 pursuant to the New Jersey Emergency Health Powers Act, N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq., unless modified, supplemented and/or rescinded, but the immunity conferred herein shall continue in perpetuity.

Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.
Commissioner

4/28/2020
DATE