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STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

In Re:
UPDATED MEASURES TO ENSURE
PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, I issued a public health advisory relating to protective measures for vulnerable populations, gatherings of private citizens and density of the workforce; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis implemented Phase 1 of Florida's recovery, a plan in which the Governor's Task Force recommended encouraging individuals to limit their personal interactions outside of the home, permitting certain personal services to resume in the State of Florida, and advising individuals to wear face coverings in instances in which social distancing is impractical; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis implemented Phase 2 of Florida's recovery plan for the majority of Florida's counties, encouraging individuals to follow appropriate social distancing and safety protocols issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in their personal interactions outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2020, I issued an updated public health advisory relating to face coverings, protective measures for vulnerable populations, and gatherings of private citizens; and

WHEREAS, as of July 16, 2020, Florida is seeing increases in positive cases, increases in the positivity rate, and increases in hospitalizations from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health is advising everyone to "Avoid the 3 Cs, that is, to avoid "Closed Spaces," avoid "Crowded Places," avoid "Close-Contact Settings," and to wear a mask; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted in Section 381.00315(1), Florida Statutes, I, Scott A. Rivkees, M.D., as State Surgeon General and State Health Officer, determine that a public health advisory is necessary as a result of COVID-19 to protect the public health and safety, and hereby issue the following public health advisory, which shall serve to update and supplement the public health advisories issued on March 25, 2020, and June 20, 2020.

FACE COVERINGS

Every individual in Florida should wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in any setting where social distancing is not possible, both indoors and outdoors, subject to the exceptions below. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to require individuals who enter the premises to wear a face covering, subject to the exceptions below. Many counties and municipalities have issued directives requiring individuals to wear face coverings, and such directives should include the following exceptions.

Face coverings should not be worn by:

- A child under two years of age;
- An individual with one or more medical conditions or disabilities that prevent wearing a face covering;
- An individual obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;

- An individual working in a profession where use of a face covering will not be compatible with the duties of the profession; or
- An individual engaged in outdoor work or recreation with appropriate social distancing.

Face coverings may reduce disease transmission by an individual who is infected but has no symptoms and an individual who has symptoms. The face covering may reduce the infectious particles that are released into the air when an individual speaks, coughs, or sneezes. A face covering may also serve to protect individuals by reducing the concentration of particles that are inhaled. All individuals should follow CDC guidelines on what type of face coverings are available and should be utilized.

Face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing, washing your hands, and staying home when you are ill. All of these mitigation measures should be carefully followed together to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

GATHERINGS

All individuals should refrain from participation in social or recreational gatherings of more than 10 people. For all gatherings of fewer than 10 people, individuals should practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of at least six feet from each other and wear a face covering.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

All individuals over the age of 65 and all individuals of any age with high-risk health conditions should limit personal interactions outside of the home and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19. These measures include, but are not limited to: distancing any unavoidable personal contact by a minimum of six feet; wearing a face covering when social distancing is not possible; washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol; avoiding unnecessary touching of

eyes, nose, and mouth, and washing hands prior to doing so; and cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces, including entryway door handles.

High-risk health conditions include, but are not limited to: chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; serious heart conditions; immunocompromised status (as a result of cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplant, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, or prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications); cancer; severe obesity (body mass index [BMI]>40); diabetes; renal failure; and liver disease.

Issued this 20th day of July 2020, in Department of Health offices, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.

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