GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order 2020-22

Protection of Vulnerable Residents at Nursing Care Institutions, Residential Care Institutions, ICF-IIDs and DD Medical Group Homes from COVID-19

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Secretary Alex Azar of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, declared a public health emergency to address the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, I, as Governor of the State of Arizona, issued a declaration of Public Health Emergency due to the necessity to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of April 7, 2020, there have been 2,575 diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in Arizona including cases of community spread, and it is likely that there will continue to be additional cases diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is contagious and can be fatal; and

WHEREAS, the elderly population and those with serious underlying health conditions are most at risk from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is important to institute enhanced protections at facilities that treat those populations most at risk if they contract COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, an introduction of COVID-19 into Nursing Care Institutions, which serve as both healthcare providers and as full-time homes for some of the most vulnerable Arizonans, can result in an outbreak and have devastating consequences; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new recommendations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Nursing Care Institutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state including A.R.S. § 36-787, in addition to the requirements outlined in Executive Order 2020-07, hereby order as follows:

1. Healthcare Institutions licensed as Nursing Care Institutions (NCI), Residential Care Institutions, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IID), and Medical Group Homes for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (DD Medical Group Homes), shall immediately ensure that they are complying with all infection control guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including:
    a. Implementing symptom checks for every individual regardless of reason entering a long-term care facility, including temperature checks. This does not apply to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) workers responding to an urgent or emergent need.
    b. Ensuring all staff use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when interacting with residents, to the extent that PPE is available and per CDC guidance on conservation of PPE.
    c. Ensuring adherence to appropriate hand hygiene protocols as per CDC guidelines.

2. To avoid transmission within NCI, Residential Care Institutions, ICF-IID, and DD Medical Group Homes, facilities should cohort COVID-19 positive residents and COVID-19 unknown residents from COVID-19 negative residents. Facilities should ensure that separate, consistent staffing teams are utilized for each of these different cohorts. COVID-19 positive units and facilities must be capable of maintaining strict infection control practices and testing protocols.

3. Nursing Care Institutions, Residential Care Institutions, ICF-IID, and DD Medical Group Homes must develop policies and procedures to facilitate the admission and readmission of residents who are ready for safe discharge from an acute care hospital without the requirement of a negative COVID-19 test result. All COVID-19 positive and COVID-19 unknown residents admitted and readmitted to the facility should be isolated in their room for 14 days unless it is a COVID-19 positive resident in a COVID-19 positive facility.

4. Nursing Care Institutions, ICF-IID, and DD Medical Group Homes shall report through EMResource or alternative form to the Arizona Department of Health Services every week the number of COVID-19 positive residents, the number of transfers to and from an acute hospital, the number and type of PPE (N95 masks, surgical masks, surgical gowns, isolation gowns, etc.), and the estimated use of each type of PPE per week.

5. Nursing Care Institutions, Residential Care Institutions, ICF-IID, and DD Medical Group Homes must offer an electronic visual form of communication, if visitation is restricted, in lieu of face to face visits for all residents.

6. This executive order shall expire upon the termination of the Declaration of Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19 and dated March 11, 2020.

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

Douglas A. Ducey

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this seventh day of April in the Year Two Thousand Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Fourth.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State