MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

KATHYLEEN M. KUNKEL
CABINET SECRETARY

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CABINET SECRETARY KATHYLEEN M. KUNKEL

MARCH 24, 2020

Public Health Emergency Order Imposing Temporary Restrictions on Non-Essential Health Care Services, Procedures, and Surgeries; Providing Guidance on those Restrictions; and Requiring a Report from Certain Health Care Providers

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization announced the emergence of a novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") that had not previously circulated in humans, but has been found to have adapted to humans such that it is contagious and easily spread from one person to another and one country to another;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency as a precautionary tool to facilitate preparation and availability of resources to assure that the federal government had appropriate resources to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our nation through its support of state and community-led preparedness and response efforts;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the New Mexico Department of Health confirmed the first cases of individuals infected with COVID-19 in New Mexico and additional cases have been confirmed each day since then;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Michelle Lujan Grisham, the Governor of the State of New Mexico, declared in Executive Order 2020-004 ("EO 2020-004") that a Public Health Emergency exists in New Mexico under the Public Health Emergency Response Act, and invoked the All Hazards Emergency Management Act by directing all cabinets, departments and agencies to comply with the directives of the declaration and the further instructions of the Department of Health;

WHEREAS, the further spread of COVID-19 in the State of New Mexico poses a threat to the health, safety, wellbeing and property of the residents in the State due to, among other things, illness from the COVID-19, illness-related absenteeism from employment (particularly among public safety and law enforcement personnel and persons engaged in activities and businesses critical to the economy and infrastructure of the State), the potential for displacements of persons, and potential closures of schools or other places of public gathering;

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") recommends the use of personal protective equipment ("PPE")—including gloves, medical masks, goggles or a face shield, gowns, and in some cases respirators (N95 or FFP2 standard or equivalent) and aprons—for patients and health care workers as an essential part of treating and preventing the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, due to delayed deliveries of PPE from the Strategic National Stockpile, the high demand for PPE throughout the United States and globally, and other supply chain interference related to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is both a statewide and national shortage of PPE and the PPE supplies of New Mexico's hospitals, health care facilities, and first responders are critically low;

WHEREAS, local, national, and global health experts predict that the expected continued rise in cases of COVID-19 will strain the capacity and resources of health care providers, including available space and equipment in health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, during a declared Public Health Emergency, the New Mexico Department of Health possesses legal authority pursuant to the Public Health Emergency Response Act to "utilize, secure or evacuate health care facilities for public use." NMSA 1978, § 12-10A-6(A)(1). The Department of Health is also permitted to "regulate or ration health care supplies" if "a public health emergency results in a statewide or regional shortage of health care supplies." § 12-10A-6(A)(2), (B). This authority permits the Department of Health to "control, restrict and regulate the allocation, sale, dispensing or distribution of health care supplies." § 12-10A-6(B). The Department of Health also has authority to "control and abate the causes of disease, especially epidemics" and to "maintain and enforce rules for the control of conditions of public health importance." NMSA 1978, § 24-1-3(C) & (Q).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathyleen M. Kunkel, Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Mexico, and through the Public Health Emergency declared in EO 2020-004 and by virtue of the Governor's direction under her power to "provide those resources and services necessary to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm until a situation becomes stabilized," NMSA 1978, § 12-10-4(B)(3), do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. All hospitals and other health care facilities, ambulatory surgical facilities, dental, orthodontic and endodontic offices in the State of New Mexico are prohibited from providing non-essential health care services, procedures, and surgeries.

2. For purposes of this Order, "non-essential health care services, procedures, and surgeries" include those which can be delayed for three (3) months without undue risk to the patient's health. Examples of criteria to consider in distinguishing between essential and non-essential actions include: (a) threat to a patient's life; (b) threat of permanent dysfunction of an extremity, including teeth, jaws, and eyes; (c) risk of metastasis or progression of staging; (d) prenatal and postnatal care; and (e) any other factors that will conserve medical resources without creating an undue risk of permanent harm to patients.

3. This Order's prohibition on non-essential health care services, procedures, and surgeries is not meant to apply to: (a) the provision of emergency medical care or any actions necessary to provide treatment to patients with emergency or urgent medical needs; (b) any surgery or treatment that if not performed would result in a serious condition of a patient worsening (e.g.,

removing a cancerous tumor or a surgery intended to manage an infection); and (c) the full suite of family planning services.

4. The prohibition on non-essential health care services, procedures, and surgeries will take effect on March 27, 2020.

5. Within three (3) days of the date of this Order, each health care provider or facility that is subject to the prohibition on non-essential health care services, procedures, and surgeries shall submit to the New Mexico Department of Health a policy addressing how it will comply with this Order and identifying those procedures that will generally be deemed essential and non-essential.

6. A person who willfully violates this Order may be subject to civil administrative penalties, including fines up to $5,000 per violation, in addition to other civil or criminal penalties that may be available at law.

I FURTHER DIRECT as follows:

(1) This Order shall be broadly disseminated in English, Spanish and other appropriate languages to the citizens of the State of New Mexico.

(2) This Order declaring restrictions based upon the existence of a condition of public health importance shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements set forth in the New Mexico Public Health Act.

(3) This Order shall remain in effect for the duration of Executive Order 2020-004. This Order may be renewed consistent with any direction from the Governor.

THIS ORDER supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect for the duration indicated in the Order unless otherwise rescinded.

ATTEST:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2020

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Kathyleen M. Kunkel

KATHYLEEN M. KUNKEL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH