STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7SS

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – TEMPORARY NURSE AIDES

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued forty-five (45) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is higher for individuals who are 60 or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have indicated that persons infected with COVID-19 may not show symptoms, and transmission or "shedding" of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and

WHEREAS, upon a proclamation that a civil preparedness emergency exists, section 28-9(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the modification or suspension in whole or in part by executive order of any statute or regulation or requirement or part thereof that conflicts with the efficient and expeditious execution of civil preparedness functions or the protection of public health; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a significant need to expand the healthcare workforce in Connecticut, especially related to care of patients in congregate settings; and

WHEREAS, such expansion would be enhanced by modification of certain licensing statutes and registration statutes that, without being modified, would prohibit the provision of care by trained but unlicensed providers who are available to perform limited but necessary healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. **Temporary Nurse Aide Defined.** Section 20-102aa of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to include a definition of "temporary nurse aide," which shall mean an individual providing nursing or nursing-related services to residents in a chronic and convalescent nursing home or rest home with nursing supervision, having eight hours of on-line training without enhanced infection control skills and ineligible to work with COVID-19 positive patients, in accordance with and under the direction of a licensed nurse, but does not include an individual who is a health professional otherwise licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health, or who volunteers to provide such services without monetary compensation.

2. **Commissioner to Grant Registration of a Temporary Nurse Aide.** Section 20-102ee of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to allow the Commissioner of Public Health to grant a registration as a temporary nurse aide to any individual that the Commissioner determines complies with the policies adopted pursuant to this order. The Commissioner may adopt, amend, implement, suspend and revoke training, competency, scope of practice and temporary hiring policies concerning temporary nurse aides, which shall not be subject to the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-174, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes. An institution hiring a temporary nurse aide shall comply with such policies adopted by the Commissioner.

3. **Restrictions on Temporary Nurse Aides.** Section 20-102ff of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to preclude temporary nurse aides from engaging in any activity for which a license is required pursuant to Chapter 378 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified, extended or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 27th day of May, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State