STATE OF VERMONT

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ADDENDUM 12 TO AMENDED AND RESTATED EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-20

[Extension of State of Emergency Declared March 13, 2020]

WHEREAS, since December 2019, Vermont has been working in close collaboration with the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and with the United States Health and Human Services Agency to first monitor and plan for outbreaks of a respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") and then to implement measures to keep Vermonters healthy and safe; and

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a public health emergency on January 31, 2020, which was renewed effective January 21, 2021 for 90 days and, as advised in a letter to the Governor dated January 22, 2021 from the Acting Secretary of HHS, will likely remain in place for the entirety of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governor directed the Vermont Department of Health ("VDH") to activate the Health Operations Center in February 2020 when VDH began to monitor and later, test Vermonters who may have been exposed to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, the Governor directed the Department of Public Safety, Division of Vermont Emergency Management ("DPS") to assemble an interagency taskforce, and later to activate the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center ("SEOC"), in accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan, to organize prevention, response, mitigation and, most recently, vaccination efforts and share information with local and State officials; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020 and March 11, 2020, VDH detected the first two cases of COVID-19 in Vermont and as of March 14, 2021, the State has experienced 16,890 cases, and tragically surpassed 200 deaths which are COVID-19 related; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 01-20, Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 and National Guard Call-Out ("Executive Order"), declaring a state of emergency for the State of Vermont in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2021, President Biden provided notice to the United States Congress that the national emergency declaration for the COVID-19 pandemic, originally issued by former President Trump on March 13, 2020, will continue in effect beyond March 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, following the issuance of the Executive Order, the Governor, in consultation with VDH, DPS and the Vermont Agency of Human Services, initiated aggressive and sustained efforts to protect property and public health, and to ensure public safety in the COVID-19 health emergency including issuing the Executive Order, as supplemented and amended and Directives issued pursuant to the Executive Order, to limit in-person contact, such as limiting the size of gatherings, closure of schools and the institution of remote learning through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, directing the postponement of non-essential medical and surgical procedures, suspending the operation of close contact businesses, requiring telecommuting and work from home, requiring Vermonters to stay home and stay safe, with exceptions for essential purposes, and suspending the operation of businesses which were not deemed critical to public health and safety and national and economic security; and

WHEREAS, modeling studies done for the State clearly show that, but for the mitigation measures taken at that time, the number of COVID-19 cases and COVID-19 related deaths in the State would have had a much more devastating effect on Vermonters and threatened to overwhelm the capacity of the Vermont health care system; and

WHEREAS, beginning in April 2020, the Governor undertook a cautious, measured and data-based approach to restarting Vermont's economy to minimize the risk to the public by limiting the spread of infection in our communities in order to protect the most vulnerable, while reopening our business, non-profit, government and recreation sectors in a safe and effective way; and

WHEREAS, the mitigation measures taken in 2020, including mandatory mask-wearing among other mandatory health and safety protocols, substantial federal financial aid, food distribution and emergency housing, prepared Vermonters, our healthcare institutions and our schools for the spike in COVID-19 cases in late fall and early winter to such an extent Vermont was able to avoid a substantial roll-back of Vermont's economic restart efforts; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 vaccine in Vermont is bringing much needed relief and, together with federal efforts, the Governor is proceeding to roll out vaccine delivery in a methodical, deliberate process designed to protect the Vermonters most vulnerable to severe illness or death from COVID, as well as return our children to school full-time as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, numerous tools needed to address response efforts remain in place by virtue of the State of Emergency declaration, including robust vaccine implementation, protections for residents of long term and other medical care facilities, National Guard resources standing by to assist with the COVID-19 response, workplace health and safety requirements, public gathering limitations, a mandate for facial coverings, expanded housing and meal delivery systems, expanded eligibility for unemployment insurance, tools needed by certain businesses to maintain a minimum level of economic sustainability, enhanced protections to prevent evictions and utility service disconnection and access to federal emergency funding; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has determined to ease restrictions on access to a junior operator's license by Vermont's young drivers who were unable to obtain a learner's permit during the period of March through June 2020, while maintaining roadway safety for the public; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has determined, in consultation with the Commissioner of VDH and DPS, based on the best science and data available, to extend the State of Emergency for the State of Vermont through Thursday, April 15, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of Vermont by the Constitution of the State of Vermont, the emergency powers set forth in 20 V.S.A. §§ 8, 9 and 11 and other laws, hereby declare the State of Emergency for the State of Vermont shall be extended through midnight on Thursday, April 15, 2021.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

1. Except as modified herein, the Executive Order, as Amended and Restated June 5, 2020, and all Addenda and Directives issued thereunder, shall continue in full force and effect until midnight on April 15, 2021, at which time the Governor, in consultation with VDH and DPS shall assess the emergency and determine whether to amend or extend the State of Emergency.

2. Junior Operators' Licenses. Effective March 13, 2021, the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles is hereby directed to issue a junior operator's license to any individual who was eligible but unable to obtain a learner's permit from March 13, 2020 through June 30, 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency, but otherwise complies with the requirements of 23 V.S.A. § 607. For the sake of clarity, an individual must have held a learner's permit for at least 8 consecutive months between the period March 13, 2020-March 13, 2021 before being issued a junior operator's license in accordance with this provision.

This Addendum 12 to the Amended and Restated Executive Order shall take effect upon execution and shall continue in full force and effect until midnight on April 15, 2021, at which time the

Governor, in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health and the Department of Public Safety shall assess the emergency and determine whether to amend or extend the Executive Order.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

By the Governor:

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

Addendum 12 to Amended and Restated Executive Order No. 01-20

March 15, 2021