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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In Re:

SUSPENSION OF STATUTES, RULES AND ORDERS, MADE NECESSARY BY COVID-19.

DOH No. 20-008

EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, I declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order number 20-51; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19, and allowing for the waiver of certain statutes and rules that prevent, hinder, or delay any necessary action in coping with the state of emergency caused by COVID-19, which was extended for an additional 60 days under Executive Order 20-114; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to waive certain statutes and rules of the Florida Department of Health in order to effectively respond to the emergency caused by COVID-

19, including certain statutes or preventing the safe and efficient provision of health care services to patients in the state of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SCOTT A. RIVKEES, M.D., pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No. 20-52, as renewed by Executive Order No. 20-114, find that strict compliance with the provisions of certain regulatory statutes and rules prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business by the Florida Department of Health will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency caused by COVID-19. In order to effectively respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 it is necessary to promulgate the following:

Section 1:

For purposes of preparing for, responding to, and mitigating any effect of COVID-19, I suspend the provisions of sections 466.006 and 466.007 that would prohibit the use of mannequins or simulated patients in lieu of live patients during the administration of the American Dental Licensing Examination and Dental Hygiene Examination. Any statute and/or rule to the contrary is hereby suspended. This suspension applies until September 1, 2020.

Section 2:

For purposes of preparing for, responding to, and mitigating any effect of COVID-19, I suspend the provisions of section 464.203(1)(b), that requires a skills demonstration examination for exam candidates who have successfully completed a Board of Nursing approved CNA training program within the past six months. Any statute and/or rule to the contrary is hereby suspended. This suspension applies until July 31, 2020.

Section 3:

For purposes of preparing for, responding to, and mitigating any effect of COVID-19, any upcoming licensure renewal deadlines between May 31 and July 31, 2020, for any professional license issued by the Department or a Department board or council are extended until August 31, 2020. Any statute and/or rule to the contrary is hereby suspended until August 31, 2020, unless extended by order of the State Surgeon General.

Because section 252.36(5)(a), Florida Statutes, allows the Governor to suspend the provisions of "any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for [the] conduct of state business," and because Section 4. B. of Executive Order No. 20-52 provides the State Surgeon General with the authority to issue this Emergency Order, the requirements of sections 252.46 and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, do not apply to this Order. This Order shall be effective until the dates specified above, unless extended by further order of the State Surgeon General.

Executed this 28th day of May 2020, in Department of Health Offices, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.

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