STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9F

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC – PHASE III REOPENING CHANGES FOR RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS

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

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, I renewed the March 10, 2020 declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall remain in effect until February 9, 2021, unless earlier terminated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declarations, I have issued seventy-three (73) 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 (the "COVID-19 Orders"); 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, 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, 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 limitation on the size of gatherings, maintaining a safe distance from others, and wearing masks or face coverings; and

WHEREAS, continued success at limiting transmission of COVID-19 has made it possible to continue and expand capacity limits for certain types of gatherings and other activities, including spiritual, religious, and worship services;

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, and pursuant to the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and renewed on September 1, 2020 and the new public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on September 1, 2020, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. **Amendments to Size Restrictions on Certain Gatherings.** Effective on October 8, 2020, Executive Order No. 7TT, Section 2 is amended to provide that religious, spiritual, or worship gatherings, if held indoors, are limited to no more than 50 percent of the building's capacity or a maximum of 200 people, whichever is lower, and such services, if held outdoors, are limited to the number of people that can be accommodated safely by the venue or location provided that all persons present wear masks, unless speaking from designated safe locations, and that a distance of 6 feet is maintained between all persons or groups not from the same household.

2. **Extension of Drive-In Worship Services and Graduations.** The provisions of Executive Order No. 7XX, Sections 1 and 2, regarding drive-in religious and graduation ceremonies, shall remain in effect.

This order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until November 9, 2020.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 8th day of October, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State