# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## *Office of the Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1500**

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Mississippi significantly impacts the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 26, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health announced new and expanded measures to increase testing and data analysis to identify regions and localities that are at higher risk for transmission of COVID-19 and to provide more location-specific restrictions and limitation of movement and social interaction to combat the virus in those regions and localities; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2020, in order to minimize the risk of possible further transmission of COVID-19 and related measures, I issued Executive Order No. 1466 instituting a statewide Shelter in Place effective at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020, and remaining in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 17, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1473 extending the statewide Shelter in Place, with certain additional exceptions, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the guidance provided by the White House for beginning the process of reopening the economy while minimizing the risk of a resurgence of COVID-19, as of April 24, 2020, the incidences of infection in Mississippi had stabilized; there was decreased utilization of hospital resources; a robust testing system was in place capable of promptly detecting any increase in the rate of infection; the healthcare system was capable of treating persons with the COVID-19 and had the capacity to promptly react to any increase in incidences; and the State had in place a plan to rapidly scale up healthcare capacity in the event of an increase in the rate of infection, accordingly, I issued Executive Order 1477 establishing the statewide Safer at Home order allowing certain businesses to open and operate under certain conditions, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 8, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1480 extending the Safer at Home order as amended allowing certain additional businesses to open and operate under certain conditions, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 25, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 22, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1488 further extending the Safer at Home order until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 28, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1492 establishing the statewide Safe Return order to restart the economy, open all businesses and non-profits operating within the State of Mississippi, and permit the resumption of community activities subject to limitations to minimize person to person interactions and associated risk of transmission of COVID-19 effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020, and remaining in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 15, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 10, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1496 extending the Safe Return order until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, continuing to follow a measured and strategic plan to allow all businesses and non-profits to continue to operate within the State of Mississippi is essential to the health, safety and well-being of Mississippi residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the level of confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 has remained steady, in consultation with the State Health Officer, it is necessary to continue the Safe Return order with certain amendments as set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. The statewide Safe Return instituted in Executive Order 1492, as extended by Executive Order 1496 is further extended and shall remain in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 6, 2020, except as follows:

a. Paragraph I(h)(viii) of Executive Order 1492, incorporating Paragraph I(b)(x) of Executive Order 1491 is amended to allow concession stands at outdoor sports complexes and multi-field complexes to open as follows: (i) employees/ volunteers operating the concession stand that come into direct contact with customers shall be provided a cloth mask and required to wear the mask while on duty; (ii) social distancing (of a minimum of six feet) shall be observed by customers waiting in line at the concession stand; (iii) customers/guests are not permitted to congregate in the area of the concession stand; and (iv) before beginning their work shift, all concession stand employees and volunteers shall be screened pursuant to Paragraph I(b)(iii) of Executive Order 1491.

b. Paragraph I(h)(vii) of Executive 1492 is amended to allow pools to be open to the public 24 hours a day, subject to social distancing, group gathering limitations and any limitations or restrictions that may be imposed by local authorities.

II. This Executive Order shall be effective at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020, and shall remain in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 6, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 26TH day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE