ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-1 **Date: March 13, 2020**

SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION

By the virtue of the authority vested in me by Mayor's Order 2020-046, dated March 11, 2020, and by the Public Emergency Amendment Act of 2002, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304.01(d), and the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act of 2009, D.C. Official Code § 7-2361.01 *et seq.*, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Administrative Order is to set forth certain authorities of the Department of Health necessary to address COVID-19 as determined by the Director of the Department of Health. This Order may be amended for time to time as needed and shall be binding on all persons and entities regulated by the Department of Health.

II. AUTHORIZED MEASURES

The Director of the Department of Health (DC Health Director), as the lead in the District's efforts in containment and mitigation of COVID-19, may:

(1) Coordinate emergency response activities with local, regional, or federal agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in furtherance of the District's response to COVID-19;

(2) Order an individual to submit to quarantine, isolation, and/or medical treatment (collectively referred to as "detention"). The DC Health Director may issue such detention orders when:
   a. There is probable cause to believe that an individual is affected with or a carrier of a communicable disease; and
   b. The individual's presence in the general population is likely to cause death or seriously impair the health of others.

(3) Order groups of individuals to submit to detention when:
   a. The DC Health Director has probable cause to believe that the group is affected with a communicable disease; and
   b. The group's ability to move freely in the general population is likely to cause death or seriously impair the health of others.

(4) Waive any licensing, registration, or certification requirements, permits, or fees otherwise required by District of Columbia law or regulation to allow health care providers from other jurisdictions appointed as temporary agents to respond to the public health emergency; provided, that the appointed temporary agents are licensed,

registered, or certified and in good standing in their home jurisdictions in their fields of expertise, and meet District's suitability requirements;

(5) Register and appoint licensed, registered, and certified health care providers, either from the District of Columbia or from other jurisdictions, as temporary agents of the District of Columbia without compensation provided that they are licensed, registered, or certified and in good standing in their home jurisdictions in their fields of expertise, and meet District's suitability requirements;

(6) Register and appoint lay volunteers to support the efforts of the District's medical response to COVID-19;

(7) Exempt licensed health care providers, either from the District of Columbia or from other jurisdictions, from civil liability for damages for any actions taken within the scope of the provider's paid or unpaid service, except in instances of gross negligence for actions taken during the state of emergency;

(8) Authorize the use of crisis standards of care or modified means of delivery of health care services in scarce resource situations;

(9) Authorize the Department of Health to coordinate health care delivery for first aid within the limits of individual licensure in shelters or facilities provided in plans and protocols published by the Department of Health, or as determined expedient by the Director;

(10) Modify the scope of practice for certain licensed, registered, and certified health care providers as required including:
   a. Authorizing certified paramedics to administer vaccines;

(11) Modify DC Health operational processes and procedures as needed to ensure more efficient use of DC Health staff during the response to COVID-19 including:
   a. Temporarily allowing submission of notarized applications for domestic partnerships via mail and conducting the required interview process remotely; and
   b. Extending the expiration period of Emergency Medical Services provider and vehicle certifications for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days following the expiration of the public health emergency, provided that fees shall be assessed as though the applications were filed within the normal time frame;

(12) Implement plans and protocols to address medical surge including coordination of health and medical resources, disposal of hazardous waste, and other plans and protocols, as needed;

(13) Procure materiel, human capital, and other goods and services as needed to support the health and medical response to COVID-19.

Licensed, registered, and certified healthcare providers in the District of Columbia shall:

a. Conduct and manage their affairs and property such that they will reasonably assist and not unreasonably detract from the ability of the District of Columbia government to successfully respond to and control the public health emergency in effect for COVID-19; and
b. Encourage the use of Telehealth by licensed healthcare professionals in the District of Columbia in accordance with the Guidance on Use of Telehealth in the District of Columbia, published on March 12, 2020 and accessible at https://coronavirus.dc.gov.

LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, MD, MPH
Director, District of Columbia
Department of Health