STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1463

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 impact the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the risk of spread of COVID-19 within Mississippi constitutes a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property within Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Mississippi and as of March 24, 2020, there are 320 presumptive and confirmed cases in Mississippi that have tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for responding to COVID-19 recommends avoiding crowds as much as possible, especially for older adults and individuals with serious chronic medical conditions and Mississippi State Department of Health has recommended avoiding social gatherings where 10 people or more may come into close contact; and

WHEREAS, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, called upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 over a 15 day period by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health issued a COVID-19 Update recommending that all restaurants and bars suspend dine-in service in order to help slow the spread of COVID-19, but not including carryout or delivery orders; recommending that Mississippi residents not attend funerals, weddings, church services or other community or social events with expected attendance of more than 10 people, but not including gas stations, pharmacies, grocery stores, or food marts; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, in order to minimize risk of possible further transmission of COVID-19 and related measures, I issued Executive Order No. 1458 directing various governmental entities to review and identify which employees perform essential duties to carry out the entity's core functions during the State of Emergency and those employees whose duties that may not be essential during the State of Emergency. And, where feasible, for the entity to determine if core functions and duties could be performed by essential employees from home in order to minimize the interaction and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 between employees; and

WHEREAS, the uninterrupted delivery of essential services and functions is vital to infrastructure viability, critical to maintain continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security, and is crucial to community resilience, continuity of essential functions and to promote the security and safety of Mississippi residents even as the nation limits human interaction and engages in social distancing; and

WHEREAS, there are segments of the workforce that deliver essential service and functions that are essential to maintaining continuity of operations of critical infrastructure including those identified in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)'s March 19, 2020, "Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response;" and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)'s guidance explains that "response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic are locally executed, State managed, and federally supported," and that to the extent possible, "jurisdictions should align access and movement control policies related to critical infrastructure workers to lower the burden on workers crossing jurisdictional boundaries:"

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:

1. That, in response to the COVID-19 emergency and in accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and the Mississippi State Department of Health and pursuant to Miss. Code. Ann. § 33-15-11(c)(4):

    a. From the date of this Executive Order until April 17, 2020, Mississippi residents shall avoid social and other non-essential gatherings in groups of more than 10 people where the gatherings in a single space at the same time where individuals are in close proximity to each other. This does not apply to normal operations of locations like airports, medical and healthcare facilities, retail shopping including grocery and department stores, offices, factories and other manufacturing facilities or any Essential Business or Operation as determined by and identified below.

    b. From the date of this Executive Order until April 17, 2020, restaurants, bars, or other dining establishments shall suspend dine-in services unless able to reduce capacity to allow no more than 10 people to be gathered in a single space at the same time where individuals are in seated or otherwise in close proximity to each other. However, the use of drive-thru, carryout, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged.

    c. From the date of this Executive Order until April 17, 2020, persons shall not visit hospitals, nursing homes and retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance, to visit residents receiving imminent end-of-life care, or as otherwise directed by the healthcare facility, provided in the professional opinion of the supervising physician or other supervising healthcare professional at such facility that such visits can be accomplished without unreasonable risk to staff or other residents of such facilities. In lieu of in-person visits, electronic visits are encouraged.

2. Consistent with Executive Order No. 1458 providing that essential employees of governmental entities should work from home to the extent feasible in order to minimize the interaction and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 between employees, it is also recommended and encouraged that all Mississippi businesses and non-profit entities likewise utilize, to the maximum extent possible, work from home or other telework procedures.

3. That, in response to the COVID-19 emergency, to promote and secure the safety and protection of Mississippi residents, and in consideration of the orders, rules, requests and other actions of federal authorities, it is vital to maintaining continuity of operations of critical infrastructure that Essential Businesses or Operations providing essential services or functions remain open, operational and continue to provide uninterrupted essential services and functions during this COVID-19 State of Emergency. Accordingly:

    a. Pursuant to Miss. Code. Ann. § 33-15-11(c)(4) and § 33-15-31 any Essential Business or Operation providing essential services or functions may operate at such level as necessary to provide such essential services or functions and shall not be subject to any 10 person gathering limitation or any other limitation or restriction

inconsistent with this Executive Order but shall take all reasonable measures to ensure compliance with the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health recommendations and guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, social distancing, sending sick employees home and actively encouraging sick employees to stay home, separating and sending home employees who appear to have respiratory illness symptoms.

b. Pursuant to Miss. Code. Ann. § 33-15-31(a), § 33-15-31(b), § 33-15-11(c)(1) & § 33-15-11(c)(4) any order, rule, regulation or action by any governing body, agency or political subdivision of the state that imposes any additional freedom of movement or social distancing limitations on Essential Business or Operation, restricts scope of services or hours of operation of any Essential Business or Operation, or which will or might in any way conflict with or impede the purpose of this Executive Order is suspended and unenforceable during this COVID-19 State of Emergency. However, nothing in this Executive Order shall in any way alter or modify the authority of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety or of the State Department of Health and the State Health Officer.

c. For purposes of this Executive Order, the phrase "Essential Business or Operation" means:

- Essential Government functions including public safety and first responders, law enforcement, fire prevention and response, courts and court personnel, military, emergency management personnel, corrections, probation and parole, child protection, child welfare, EMTs, 911 call center employees, all workers and vendors that support law enforcement and emergency management operations and services;

- Essential healthcare operations including hospitals/clinics, research and laboratory operations, nursing homes, residential health care facilities, congregate care facilities, assisted living facilities, elder care, medical wholesale and distribution, home health workers and aides, medical supply and equipment manufacturers and providers, medical waste disposal, hazardous waste disposal, other ancillary healthcare services;

- Essential infrastructure including utilities including power generation, nuclear facilities, utility poles and components, fuel and transmission, petroleum producers, suppliers and distributors, supply chain companies, telecommunications, electronic security and life safety services, wireless communication, communications sales and customer support, telecommunication and data centers, cybersecurity operations, flood control, operation of dams, aviation, airports, ports, roads and highways, mass transit, automotive sales and repair, vehicle rental services, taxi and network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), freight and passenger rail, pipelines, transportation infrastructure, public water and waste water, hazardous waste disposal, hotels and commercial lodging services;

- Manufacturing including food processing and production, pharmaceuticals, food additives, medical equipment, medical devices and supplies, technology, biotechnology, chemical products, telecommunications products, automotive production and suppliers, healthcare, energy, steel and steel products, fuel and petroleum exploration and production, lubricants, greases and engine oils, mining, national defense, sanitary and cleaning products, household products, personal care products, products used by any other Essential Business or Operation;

- Agriculture and farms including food cultivation, livestock, cattle, poultry and seafood operations, livestock auctions, feedlots, dealers and brokers of livestock, livestock transporters, farmer's markets, feed stores, repair of agricultural equipment, gas, diesel and petroleum suppliers, aquaculture, horticulture, chemicals including pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer,

producers and distributors, forest products businesses, including those involved in forestry operations, logging, manufacture of lumber and paper products, meat processing facilities, rendering facilities and transporters, feed processing facilities, veterinary services;

- Essential retail including all supermarkets, food and beverage stores, food providers, convenience stores, pharmacies, hardware and building materials, gas stations, restaurants or bars (but only to the extent that (1) not more than 10 people are gathered in such restaurants or bars in a single space at the same time where individuals are in seated or otherwise in close proximity to each other or (2) for curb side pick-up, carryout or delivery);

- Essential services including trash collection, mail and shipping services, home repair, automotive sales and repair, warehouse, distribution and fulfillment centers, laundromats/laundry service;

- Media including newspapers, digital news sites, television, radio and other media services;

- Education including educators supporting public and private K-12 schools, colleges and universities, educational institutions, for purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research or other essential functions including public schools preparing and transporting free and reduced meals to eligible students within their respective districts (this Executive Order is consistent with and does not amend or supersede Executive Order No. 1460 regarding public schools);

- Financial services including banks and related financial institutions, insurance, payroll, accounting, processing financial transactions, services related to financial markets;

- Professional services including legal services, accounting services, insurance services, real estate services (including appraisal and title services);

- Providers of basic necessities to economically disadvantaged populations including businesses, religious and secular non-profit organizations, food banks, foster care, homeless shelters and congregate care facilities;

- Construction and construction related services including building and construction, lumber, building materials and hardware, electricians, plumbers, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial, HVACR and water heating industry, painting, moving and relocating services, other skilled trades, and other related construction firms and professionals for maintaining essential infrastructure;

- Essential services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operations of residences and essential businesses and essential business operations, including law enforcement, fire prevention and response, firearm and ammunition manufacturers and retailers, building code enforcement, security, emergency management and response, building cleaning including disinfection, automotive sales and repair, mortuaries and cemeteries;

- Defense Industrial Base including employers and personnel who support the essential products and services required to meet national security commitments to the Federal Government and the U. S. Military, including personnel working for companies and their subcontractors, who perform under contract to the Department of Defense providing materials and services to the Department of Defense and government-owned/contractor-operated and government-owned/government-operated facilities.

- Vendors that provide essential services or products, including logistics and technology support, child care programs and services, medical waste disposal, hazardous waste disposal, services needed to ensure the continuing operation of Essential Business or Operation, operation of government agencies, and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public;

- Religious entities including religious and faith-based facilities, entities and groups, religious gatherings provided that they adhere to the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health recommendations and guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19;

- Categories of workers and related industries identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its "Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response" https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19 as it may be amended,

- Other categories as may be identified and deemed essential by the Mississippi Department of Health, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and/or other appropriate agency of the State of Mississippi.

4. That all departments, commissions, agencies, institutions, and boards of the State of Mississippi, political subdivisions thereof, counties, municipalities and school districts are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions and measures taken in response to COVID-19 during the State of Emergency.

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 24th day of March, 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

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

SUPPLEMENT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1463

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 March 23, 2020, Executive Order No. 1463 was issued to, among other things, establish statewide continuity of operations of critical infrastructure and ensure that Essential Businesses or Operations providing essential services or functions remain open, operational and continue to provide uninterrupted essential services and functions during this COVID-19 State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, prior to the issuance of Executive Order No. 1463, various political subdivisions of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to authority afforded them under various state emergency management laws and other statutory powers, had issued orders, rules, regulations, or resolutions and took actions in response to the national emergency associated with COVID-19 and the Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation as a means of local effort to prevent the spread of this disease; and

WHEREAS, as this supplement is issued for clarity and in promotion of the recognized need for consistency and uniformity, the orders, rules, regulations, resolutions, and actions in response to the national emergency associated with COVID-19 taken by political subdivisions prior to issuance of Executive Order No. 1463, as well as subsequent thereto, may continue to be in effect and shall not be suspended or unenforceable, so long as they provide the minimum applicable restrictions set out in Executive Order No. 1463 and do not impose restrictions that prevent any Essential Business or Operation as identified in Executive Order No. 1463 from operating at such level necessary to provide essential services and functions during this COVID-19 State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, as an example and for further clarification, orders, rules, regulations, resolutions, and actions of political subdivisions that temporarily suspend all dine-in services and operations of restaurants, bars, and other dining establishments but permit drive-thru, curbside, carryout, and/or delivery service, and which were effective prior to issuance of Executive Order No. 1463, did not prevent any Essential Business or Operation from operating at such level necessary to provide essential services and functions during this COVID-19 State of Emergency, were determined to be in the best interests of these political subdivisions, and are herein deemed to be consistent with Executive Order No. 1463:

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:

1. The intent and purpose of this Supplement to Executive Order No. 1463 is to provide clarity and to avoid and prevent inconsistencies toward the objective of emergency management in this State in response to the COVID-19 emergency, especially when local actions have occurred in conjunction with such emergency management that are not inconsistent with the overall plan and needs of the State.

2. That, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(1) and (b)(5) and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c)(4), Executive Order No. 1463 shall be clarified and amended to read and understood to hold that no governing body, agency, or political subdivision of the State shall adopt any measures that are less restrictive than the provisions of

Executive Order No. 1463 and the orders, rules, regulations, resolutions, and actions taken by political subdivisions of the State prior to issuance of Executive Order No. 1463 on March 23, 2020, as well as subsequent thereto, may continue to be in effect and shall not be suspended or unenforceable, so long as the same provide the minimum applicable restrictions set out in Executive Order No. 1463 and do not impose restrictions that prevent any Essential Business or Operation as identified in Executive Order No. 1463 from operating at such level necessary to provide essential services and functions during this COVID-19 State of Emergency.

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 March, 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