STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor

Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

ORDER

Whereas, on March 10, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont (the Governor), in response to the global pandemic of 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State of Connecticut pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to remain in effect through September 9, 2020, unless sooner terminated by the Governor; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, the Governor, in furtherance of the authority granted by virtue of such emergency declaration, issued Executive Order No. 7A to address critical public health issues regarding COVID-19; and

Whereas, said Executive Order provides that for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergencies, or until such time as the Governor repeals or modifies Executive Order 7A, notwithstanding Section 19a-550(b)(12) of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other statute, regulation, local rule or ordinance or provision of law, the Commissioner of Public Health is authorized to issue any and all orders restricting entrance into nursing home facilities, residential care homes or chronic disease hospitals (the Facility or Facilities) that she deems necessary to protect the health and welfare of patients, residents and staff.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Executive Order No. 7A, and in response to the ongoing public health crisis arising out of COVID-19, especially among elderly individuals and persons with co-morbid conditions, I hereby order that, **effective immediately, all Connecticut Facilities shall impose a complete ban on all visitors to such Facilities, for a period of THIRTY (30) DAYS commencing on the date of this order unless terminated earlier by virtue of a future order,** except that a Facility shall continue to provide reasonable access to:

1. First responders, including Emergency Medical Services, law enforcement, firefighting and Emergency Management personnel;

2. Family members, domestic partners or other persons designated by a patient only when the Facility's Medical Director, a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse has determined such patient to be at the end stage of life with death being imminent;

3. Any person authorized by law to oversee or investigate the provision of care and services; and

4. Service providers who are required to do maintenance or repair necessary without delay for the Facility's continued operation.

In all instances where visitors are permitted entry to a Facility as enumerated above, such visitors shall only be permitted into the Facility after Facility personnel have performed a risk screening of each such visitor for COVID-19, and with the use of appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in accordance with CDC guidance documents, if necessary. Please refer to CDC guidance documents at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html

The risk screening to be performed shall include, but not be limited to, recent travel history, contact with a person presumed or confirmed positive for COVID-19, fever of 100 degrees or greater, sneezing, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath and recent travel by airplane. The Facility shall ban entrance to any visitor who confirms the existence of any of the utilized screening conditions or who the Facility determines meets one of such criteria.

Except as provided herein, nothing in this order shall suspend or modify the provisions of Sec. 19a-550(b)(12) providing the right to communicate privately with persons of the patient's choice, send and receive the patient's personal mail unopened and make and receive telephone calls privately, unless medically contraindicated, as documented by the patient's physician or advanced practice registered nurse in the patient's medical record.

Any Facility resident desirous and capable of leaving the Facility may do so at any time provided he or she is screened for exposure to COVID-19 upon his or her return as provided above.

The restrictions imposed herein shall be reviewed weekly and modified as circumstances warrant but shall, in no event, continue beyond September 9, 2020.

Ordered this 13th day of March, 2020

Reneé D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner