STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1457

MISSISSIPPI CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Emergency Management Law of 1995 as codified at Title 33, Chapter 15 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, confers emergency powers on the Governor, executive heads of state agencies, and governing bodies of municipalities and counties to be prepared in the event of a natural emergency or disaster that threatens life, property or the environment; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus identified as COVID-19 ("the virus"), first discovered in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, is a severe, fatal respiratory illness that can result in pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, septic shock, and multi-organ failure; and

WHEREAS, since the discovery of the virus in December 2019, COVID-19 has spread to countries worldwide, including cases and deaths identified in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the spread of the virus indicates that it is being transmitted through human-to-human contact; and

WHEREAS, outbreaks of the virus in the United States and in other countries across the world are being addressed through a combination of isolation, quarantine, medical monitoring, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared on January 30, 2020, that the virus is a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern;" and

WHEREAS, in response to the outbreak, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that the virus presents a serious public health threat requiring enhanced entry screening at select airports in the United States; and

WHEREAS, preparation for public health hazards such as COVID-19 must involve a coordinated effort across federal, state, county, and local governments, first responders, private organizations, and the entire healthcare infrastructure in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly evolving outbreak of the virus requires State officials to continuously monitor developments in the United States and around the world in order to take necessary and appropriate actions to ensure that residents of Mississippi remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to the virus effective January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as Governor, it is my duty and responsibility to protect the health and well-being of our residents by taking all necessary preparatory measures in response to the threats posed to the public health by the virus;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TATE REEVES, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby **ORDER, DIRECT,** and **AUTHORIZE**:

1. That the Mississippi State Department of Health, in coordination with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, is designated as the lead state agency to coordinate

emergency response activities related to the virus among the various state agencies and local governments.

2. That all Executive branch departments, agencies, boards, and commissions and any other division of the Executive branch of state government, fully cooperate with and provide staff support and any other assistance requested.

3. That agencies not under the direction of the Governor provide such assistance as required.

4. That a Mississippi Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response Planning Steering Committee ("Steering Committee") be established and include senior representation from the following designated state agencies:

a. The Mississippi Governor's Office
b. The Mississippi State Department of Health
c. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
d. The Mississippi Office of the Attorney General
e. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
f. The Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration
g. The Mississippi Department of Human Services
h. The Mississippi Department of Public Safety-Office of Homeland Security
i. The Mississippi State Personnel Board
j. The Mississippi Development Authority
k. The Mississippi Commission for Voluntary Service
l. The Mississippi Department of Education
m. The Mississippi National Guard
n. The Institutions of Higher Learning
o. The Community College Board
p. The Mississippi Board of Nursing
q. The Mississippi Department of Information Technology
r. And representatives as deemed necessary by the Chairperson.

5. That the State Health Officer shall serve as the Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

6. That the Steering Committee shall act as an advisory council in matters related to Mississippi's pandemic preparedness and response plan and activities.

7. That the Steering Committee review issues relating to the maintenance and improvement of Mississippi's plan as well as issues that may impact it, as deemed appropriate by the Mississippi State Department of Health in cooperation with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and county and municipal governments.

8. That the Steering Committee make recommendations for:

a. An overall strategy for the adoption and uses of the plan;

b. An overall strategy to address potential technical, scientific, medical, economic, security, privacy, and other issues related to the adoption of the plan;

c. An overall strategy to identify existing resources, including funding resources, to support the development and implementation of the plan; and,

d. An overall strategy to ensure continuing educational efforts to promote development of a population capable of self-sustaining before, during and after a pandemic, including vulnerable and at-risk population.

9. That all Executive branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions and any other divisions of the Executive branch of state government fully cooperate with the Steering

Committee and provide staff support and any other assistance as requested by the Steering Committee.

10. That the Steering Committee continue in existence until all its objectives are achieved unless otherwise directed by a future Executive Order.

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

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, the fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty and of the Independence of the United States of American, the two hundred and forty-four.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

MICHAEL D. WATSON, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE