GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner / Brian Kemp, Governor

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STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
THIRD AMENDED[1] ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian P. Kemp issued Executive Order 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia due to the impact of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Georgia General Assembly concurred with Executive Order 03.14.20.01 by joint resolution; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2020, Governor Kemp issued Executive Order 04.08.20.02, extending the Public Health State of Emergency through and including May 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all states and territories implement aggressive measures to slow and contain transmission of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases of COVID-19 in the state of Georgia continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents a severe threat to public health in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease that is transmitted primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, although the vast majority of Georgians are complying with public health recommendations and guidance for the isolation of persons with symptoms of COVID-19, I have received reliable reports that a small number of persons may be behaving in a way that contributes to the spread of this disease in the community; and

WHEREAS, I have determined that it is necessary and appropriate to require persons who:

- have received a positive lab-confirmed test for COVID-19, or
- are suspected to have COVID-19 based on symptoms which may include fever cough, or shortness of breath, or
- have been in close contact with a person with known or suspected COVID-19

[1] This Third Amended Administrative Order amends and supersedes the prior Orders issued on March 21, 23, and April 3, 2020.

to isolate or quarantine themselves at home, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, reduce the number of people who will become infected, and avoid unnecessary strain on Georgia's healthcare system.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-4(4) and 31-12-4, Chapter 511-9-1 of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Public Health ("Department"), and Governor Kemp's Executive Order 03.14.20.01,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

Isolation

1. *Persons With Known COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or clinical laboratory of a positive laboratory-confirmed test for COVID-19, the person testing positive for COVID-19 shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.

2. *Persons With Suspected COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider or public health official of suspected COVID-19 infection based on symptoms which may include fever, cough or shortness of breath, the person with suspected COVID-19 infection shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.

3. Each isolated person shall avoid unnecessary physical contact with any and all persons and shall comply fully with the Isolation Protocol attached to this Order, which may be updated from time to time based on guidance from the Centers from Disease Control and Prevention.

4. Each isolated person shall remain in isolation until such time as he or she no longer presents a risk of infection to the public, as determined by the Isolation Protocol then in effect. As of the date of this Administrative Order, the Isolation Protocol requires an isolated person to remain in isolation until either:

    - the person's fever has been gone for at least seventy-two (72) hours, without taking fever-reducing medication, and
    - the person's other symptoms have improved, and
    - at least seven (7) days have elapsed from the date symptoms began,

or

- for a person who was placed under home isolation due to a laboratory-confirmed positive test result, but who has experienced no symptoms of COVID-19, until at least seven (7) days have elapsed since the date of the person's first positive diagnostic test.

5. Isolated persons should monitor their symptoms and seek prompt medical attention if they experience difficulty breathing, as instructed in the Isolation Protocol. An exception to the requirement for isolation applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person's health condition worsens and he or she requires treatment in a healthcare facility.

6. Each isolated person shall, to the extent practicable, provide notification of the isolated person's COVID-19 status to those persons with whom the isolated person has been in close contact (within six (6) feet for ten (10) minutes or more) beginning forty-eight (48) hours before symptoms began. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever and shortness of breath. At the request of state or local public health personnel, the isolated person shall provide a list of the locations visited by the isolated person during the time frame that he or she may have been able to transmit the disease.

Quarantine

7. *Persons With COVID-19 Exposure Likely to Result in Infection.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or isolated person of exposure to COVID-19 based on close contact (within six (6) feet for ten (10) minutes or more) with a person who must be isolated as provided herein, the person so exposed shall immediately quarantine himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.

8. Each quarantined person shall remain at home or in the approved quarantine location for a period of fourteen (14) days from the person's last known exposure to COVID-19. An exception to the requirement for quarantine applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person requires treatment in a healthcare facility. Health care providers, emergency medical services workers, first responders, and other critical infrastructure workers may continue to work, in consultation with their workplace occupational health program and if necessary to ensure adequate staffing, so long as they are asymptomatic, don masks while on duty, and comply with all other quarantine requirements for the duration of the fourteen (14) day period.

9. During the period of quarantine, the quarantined person shall take his or her temperature twice per day and monitor any symptoms of respiratory illness. If at any time the quarantined person's temperature is above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or if the quarantined person experiences cough or shortness of breath, the quarantined person shall be considered a person with suspected COVID-19 and shall follow the requirements for isolation set forth above.

Staff members of the Department remain available at 866-PUB-HLTH (866-782-4584) to provide assistance and counseling to persons subject to this Administrative Order concerning their illness or exposure and their compliance with this Order. During the period of isolation or quarantine, the ability of persons subject to this Order to communicate with others outside the isolation or quarantine site, including their ability to exchange confidential communications with legal and medical advisors of their own choosing, will be preserved and facilitated to the extent possible without jeopardizing the integrity of the isolation or quarantine.

Failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor offense pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-5-8. If the Department has reasonable grounds to believe that a person subject to quarantine or isolation refuses to comply with the requirements of this Order, the Department may provide information to law enforcement as necessary to ensure compliance and facilitate criminal prosecution.

Further, any person who refuses to isolate or quarantine himself or herself as required by this Order may be subject to such further action as may be necessary to protect the public's health.

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect for thirty (30) days following the end of the Public Health State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 03.14.20.01.

SO ORDERED, this 15th day of April, 2020.

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
State Health Officer

Attachment:
Georgia Department of Public Health Isolation Protocol