STATE OF VERMONT

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ADDENDUM 3 TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-20

Suspension of all Non-Essential Adult Elective Surgery and Medical and Surgical Procedures

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 01-20,Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 and National Guard Call-Out ("Executive Order"), declaring a state of emergency for the State of Vermont in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, since that time, additional cases of COVID-19 have been tested as presumptively positive in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order expressly recognized the critical need to take steps to control outbreaks of COVID-19, particularly among those who are elderly or already have underlying chronic health conditions, to minimize the risk to the public, maintain the health and safety of Vermonters, and limit the spread of infection in our communities and within our healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Health, the Governor has directed a number of mitigation strategies for the State in order to protect individuals at risk for severe illness; and

WHEREAS, to aggressively address COVID-19, conservation of critical resources such as ventilators and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is essential, as well as limiting exposure of patients and staff to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, after receiving updated recommendations from the U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. College of Surgeons, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid, and in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Health and the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, the Governor has determined it is necessary to suspend all non-essential adult elective surgery and medical and surgical procedures, including all dental procedures; and

WHEREAS, the suspension of all non-essential adult elective surgery and medical and surgical procedures, including all dental procedures will be critical in helping to protect patients, reduce exposure to healthcare providers and preserve critical personal protective equipment (PPE), which is in critical demand around the country; and

WHEREAS, it is important for all Vermonters to recognize additional reductions or prohibitions may be implemented as needed to the extent there is a growing trend of confirmed COVID-19 in Vermont.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of Vermont by the Constitution of the State of Vermont, the emergency powers set forth in 20 V.S.A. §§ 8, 9 and 11 and other laws, hereby order all clinicians in Vermont to expedite postponement of

all non-essential adult elective surgery and medical and surgical procedures, including all dental procedures in the safest but most expedient way possible.

At all times, the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), hospital and intensive care unit beds, and ventilators should be considered, even in areas that are not currently dealing with COVID-19 infections. While case-by-case evaluations will be made by clinicians, the following factors are to be considered as to whether planned surgery should proceed:

- Current and projected COVID-19 cases in the facility and region
- Supply of PPE to the facilities in the system
- Staffing availability
- Bed availability, especially intensive care unit (ICU) beds
- Ventilator availability
- Health and age of the patient, especially given the risks of concurrent COVID-19 infection during recovery
- Urgency of the procedure

This Addendum to the Executive Order shall take effect upon signing and shall continue in full force and effect until April 15, 2020, at which time the Governor, in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health and Agency of Human Services, the Department of Public Safety/Division of Emergency Management shall assess the emergency and determine whether to amend or extend this Order as it relates to the suspension of adult elective surgery and medical and surgical procedures, including all dental procedures.

By the Governor:

Philip B. Scott
Governor

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

Executive Order No. 01-20 – Addendum 3

March 20, 2020