GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
ISSUED PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 03.23.20.01

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, 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, as of this date, laboratory testing has confirmed more than 1,200 cases of COVID-19 in the state of Georgia, a number that continues to rise; 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 by respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Kemp issued Executive Order 03.23.20.01, which closes bars and nightclubs in Georgia, limits large gatherings statewide, and orders isolation, quarantine, or "shelter in place" for medically fragile populations, effective for fourteen (14) days; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kemp's Executive Order 03.23.20.01 orders the Georgia Department of Public Health to issue an order specifying the conditions under which medically fragile populations must be isolated, quarantined, or required to shelter in place.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-4, 31-12-4, 38-3-51, and Governor Kemp's Executive Orders 03.14.20.01 and 03.23.20.01,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. *Persons Required to Stay at Home.* The following categories of persons, due to their high risk for severe illness or death from COVID-19 based on evidence available to date, shall hereby shelter in place, meaning remaining in their place of residence and taking every possible precaution to limit social interaction to prevent the spread or infection of COVID-19 to themselves or any other person, except for the purpose of conducting or participating in Essential Services or engaging in Necessary Travel:
   - Persons residing in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities, including inpatient hospice, assisted living communities, personal care homes, intermediate care homes, community living arrangements, and community integration homes.
   - Persons with chronic lung disease, including moderate to severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or other chronic lung conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen.
   - Persons who are immunocompromised, including those who are currently undergoing cancer treatment.

2. *Conducting or Participating in Essential Services.* Essential Services permitted under Paragraph 1 of this Administrative Order are limited to the following:
   - Obtaining necessary supplies and services for family or household members, such as food and supplies for household consumption and use, medical supplies or medication, supplies and equipment needed to work from home, and products needed to maintain safety, sanitation, and essential maintenance of the home or residence. Preference should be given to online ordering, home delivery, and curbside pick-up services wherever possible as opposed to in-store shopping.
   - Engaging in activities essential for the health and safety of family or household members, such as seeking medical, behavioral health, or emergency services.
   - Caring for a family member or friend in another household or residence, including transportation of such family member or friend to obtain necessary supplies and services or to engage in activities essential for health and safety as described above.

- Engaging in outdoor exercise activities so long as a minimum distance of six feet is maintained during such activities between all persons who are not occupants of the same household or residence.

3. *Engaging in Necessary Travel.* Necessary Travel permitted under Paragraph 1 of this Administrative Order is limited to such travel as is required to conduct or participate in Essential Services as provided in Paragraph 2 of this Administrative Order.

4. *Visitors.* Persons required to stay at home or in their residences, as provided in Paragraph 1 of this Administrative Order, shall not receive visitors, except as follows:
   - Visitors providing medical, behavioral health, or emergency services or medical supplies or medication.
   - Visitors providing support for the person to conduct activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living.
   - Visitors providing necessary supplies and services, such as food and supplies for household consumption and use, supplies and equipment needed to work from home, and products needed to maintain safety, sanitation, and essential maintenance of the home or residence.
   - Visitors received during end-of-life circumstances.

   To the extent practicable under the circumstances, visitors shall maintain a minimum distance of six (6) feet between themselves and all other occupants of the person's home or residence.

5. *Exceptions.* An exception to the stay at home requirement applies in the event of an emergency. In such cases, persons are encouraged to leave their homes or residences and shelter in place in accordance with this Administrative Order at a safe alternate location. Persons experiencing homelessness are urged to obtain shelter and to contact governmental and other entities for assistance.

6. As provided in Governor Kemp's Executive Order 03.23.20.01, no business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization shall allow more than ten (10) persons to be gathered at a single location if such gathering requires persons to stand or be seated within six (6) feet of any other person.

7. The term "single location" as included in Governor Kemp's Executive Order 03.23.20.01 and as used herein shall be interpreted to mean a space where all persons gathered cannot maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and any other person.

8. *Nursing Homes and Other Long-Term Care Facilities.* Nursing homes and other long-term care facilities licensed, regulated, or operated by the Georgia Department of

Community Health or the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, including inpatient hospice, assisted living communities, personal care homes, intermediate care homes, and community living arrangements, and community integration homes shall maintain full compliance with all directives and guidance issued by state or federal licensing or regulating agencies and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Further, such facilities shall not admit any visitors except to provide Essential Services or during end-of-life circumstances and shall, to the extent possible, serve meals in rooms and limit group activities. All staff and visitors in such facilities shall be screened prior to entry and shall be excluded if they have a fever above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or exhibit respiratory symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath.

9. *Early Education Programs.* Early education programs licensed by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), including Child Care Learning Centers, Family Child Care Learning Homes, Pre-K Programs, license exempt providers, and Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program Institutions and Sites, shall maintain full compliance with all DECAL directives and guidance. Further, all visitors, staff, and children in such facilities shall be screened prior to entry and shall be excluded if they have a fever above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or exhibit respiratory symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath.

10. *Facilities Licensed or Monitored by DHS.* Facilities licensed or monitored by the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), including child-caring institutions, children's transition care centers, group-care facilities, and maternity homes, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 49-5-3, shall maintain full compliance with all DHS directives and guidance. Further, all visitors and staff in such facilities shall be screened prior to entry and shall be excluded if they have a fever above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or exhibit respiratory symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath.

11. *Non-Profit Food Sales and Service.* A business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization providing non-profit food sales or food service as provided in O.C.G.A. § 26-2-390, *et seq.*, shall provide only carry-out, drive-through, and delivery food service and shall otherwise maintain full compliance with all directives and guidance issued by the Georgia Department of Public Health. Strict adherence to maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance between persons in groups of ten (10) or more persons as provided in Executive Order 03.23.20.01 shall not be enforced against such businesses, establishments, corporations, non-profit corporations, or organizations so long as the gathering of ten (10) or more persons is necessary for operation. Further, all staff members shall be screened prior to entry and shall be excluded if they have a fever above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or exhibit respiratory symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath.

12. Any business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization operating during the effective dates of this Order shall, to the maximum extent practicable under the circumstances, implement measures which mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its workforce. Such measures may include, but not be limited to, the following:
    - Screening and evaluating workers who exhibit signs of illness, such as a fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, or shortness of breath;
    - Requiring workers who exhibit signs of illness to not report to work or to seek medical attention;
    - Enhancing sanitation of the workplace as appropriate;
    - Requiring hand washing or sanitation by workers at appropriate places within the business location; and
    - Providing personal protective equipment as available and appropriate to the function and location of the worker within the business location.

13. This Administrative Order shall take effect at 12:00 ~~a.m.~~/p.m. on March 28, 2020, and unless amended or otherwise superseded, shall remain in effect until 12:00 p.m. on April 6, 2020, or for so long as Executive Order 03.23.20.01 is effective, whichever is longer.

SO ORDERED, this 27th day of March 2020.

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