JARED POLIS
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D 2021 017

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Extending Executive Orders D 2020 014, D 2020 028, D 2020 048, D 2020 083, D 2020 117, D 2020 146, D 2020 172, D 2020 200, D 2020 228, D 2020 256, and D 2020 282 Concerning the Temporary Suspension of Certain Requirements Preventing Issuance of Marriage Licenses Due to the Presence of COVID-19 in Colorado

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order extending Executive Order D 2020 014, as extended by D 2020 028, D 2020 048, D 2020 083, D 2020 117, D 2020 146, D 2020 172, D 2020 200, D 2020 228, D 2020 256, and D 2020 282, concerning the temporary suspension of certain statutes preventing the issuance of marriage licenses when county clerk and recorder offices are closed, due to the presence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado.

I. Background and Purpose

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb, and there is community spread throughout the State. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, D 2020 125, D 2020 152, D 2020 176, D 2020 205, D 2020 234, D 2020 258, D 2020 264, D 2020 268, D 2020 284, D 2020 290, D 2020 296, and D 2021 009. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020.

My administration, along with other State, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our health care resources.

We must take action to minimize the duration of this epidemic and the disruption to our daily lives. The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread primarily by close contact between people and through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Public health experts recommend we practice "social distancing," or maintaining a physical distance of six (6) feet or more from other people, as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19.

On March 26, 2020, I issued Executive Order D 2020 014 ordering the temporary suspension of certain statutes preventing county clerk and recorder offices from issuing marriage licenses when county clerk and recorder offices are closed to the public due to COVID-19. I have extended this Executive Order multiple times due to the continuing impact of COVID-19 in Colorado.

This Executive Order extends Executive Orders D 2020 014, D 2020 028, D 2020 048, D 2020 083, D 2020 117, D 2020 146, D 2020 172, D 2020 200, D 2020 228, D 2020 256, and D 2020 282, for an additional thirty (30) days. This extension will enable Coloradans to obtain marriage licenses while observing social distancing guidelines and minimizing the risk of spreading COVID-19.

II. Duration

Executive Order D 2020 014, as extended by Executive Orders D 2020 028, D 2020 048, D 2020 083, D 2020 117, D 2020 146, D 2020 172, D 2020 200, D 2020 228, D 2020 256, D 2020 282, and this Executive Order, shall expire thirty (30) days from January 16, 2021, unless extended further by Executive Order. In all other respects, Executive Order D 2020 014, as extended by Executive Orders D 2020 028, D 2020 048, D 2020 083, D 2020 117, D 2020 146, D 2020 172, D 2020 200, D 2020 228, D 2020 256, and D 2020 282, shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this sixteenth day of January, 2021.

Jared Polis
Governor