STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7D

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – CROWD REDUCTION AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7, dated March 12, 2020, among other things, prohibited gatherings of 250 people or more for social and recreational activities, including but not limited to, community, civic, leisure, and sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; movie screenings; plays or performances; conventions; and similar activities, and suspended various statutes and regulations to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No.7A, dated March 13, 2020, authorized the Commissioner of Public Health to restrict entrance into nursing homes and similar facilities to protect people who are most vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order No. 7B, dated March 14, 2020, among other things, modified in-person open meetings requirements, waived certain rules to mitigate the critical shortage of hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment (PPE), maintain and increase the availability of childcare, and provide for increased healthcare resources and facilities; and

WHEREAS, my Executive Order 7C, dated March 15, 2020, among other things, cancelled classes in public schools for at least two weeks, provided for closure and remote conduct of business at Department of Motor Vehicle branches, extended deadlines for municipal budget preparations, and suspended or modified laws and regulations governing health care data and visitation at certain health care and congregate care settings; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 appears to be higher for individuals who are 60 years of age or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow transmission of the virus, including cancellation of gatherings of fifty people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health has added COVID-19 to the list of reportable diseases under Section 19a-215 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut is coordinating with other states to develop consistent strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 infections throughout the state and region;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. Further Reduction of Large Crowds. Effective immediately, and through April 30, 2020, unless earlier modified, extended, or terminated by me, the prior order set forth in Executive Order No. 7 prohibiting social and recreational gatherings of 250 people or more is hereby amended and modified to require that all such gatherings of 50 or more people, including but not limited to, community, civic, leisure, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; plays or live performances; conventions; and similar activities, as well as religious, spiritual or worship gatherings of such size, are prohibited throughout the State of Connecticut.

2. Limits on Restaurant, Bar and Private Club Operations. Effective at 8 p.m. on March 16, 2020 and through April 30, 2020, unless earlier modified, extended, or terminated by me, any restaurant or eating establishment and any location licensed for on-premise consumption of alcoholic liquor in the State of Connecticut, except for Class III and Class II Tribal Gaming enterprises, shall only serve food or non-alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption. The Governor continues to work with the state's federally recognized tribes on the temporary closure of their casino operations and, if necessary, reserves the right to address on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages on tribal lands in a future Executive Order.

3. Closure of Off-Track Betting Facility Operations. Effective at 8 p.m. on March 16, 2020 and through April 30, 2020, unless earlier modified, extended, or terminated by me, any facility authorized to conduct off-track betting shall cease on-site operations.

4. Restriction on Gym, Sports, Fitness and Recreation Facility and Movie Theater Operations. Effective at 8 p.m. on March 16, 2020 and through April 30, 2020, unless earlier modified, extended, or terminated by me, any indoor gym, fitness center, or similar facility or studio offering in-person fitness, sporting or recreational opportunities or instructions, and all movie theaters shall cease all operations.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 16th day of March, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State