# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## *Office of the Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1483**

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Mississippi significantly impact the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 26, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health announced new and expanded measures to increase testing and data analysis to identify regions and localities that are at higher risk for transmission of COVID-19 and to provide more location-specific restrictions and limitation of movement and social interaction to combat the virus in those regions and localities; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2020, in order to minimize the risk of possible further transmission of COVID-19 and related measures, I issued Executive Order No. 1466 instituting a statewide Shelter in Place effective at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020, and remaining in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 17, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1473 extending the statewide Shelter in Place, with certain additional exceptions, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the guidance provided by the White House for beginning the process of re-opening the economy while minimizing the risk of a resurgence of COVID-19, the incidences of infection in Mississippi have stabilized; there is decreased utilization of hospital resources; a robust testing system is in place capable of promptly detecting any increase in the rate of infection; the healthcare system is capable of treating persons with COVID-19 and has the capacity to promptly react to any increase in incidences; and the State has in place a plan to rapidly scale up healthcare capacity in the event of an increase in the rate of infection; and

**WHEREAS,** on April 24, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1477 establishing the statewide Safer at Home order allowing certain businesses to open and operate under certain conditions, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 8, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1480 extending Executive Order 1477 as amended allowing certain additional businesses to open and operate under certain conditions, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 25, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi must protect lives while restoring livelihoods, both of which can be achieved with the expert advice of medical professionals and business leaders; and

**WHEREAS,** a majority of jurisdictions throughout Mississippi indicate a slowed and stabilized rate of diagnosis of new cases while maintaining ample hospital ICU and ventilator capacity; and

**WHEREAS,** continued targeted testing and contact tracing continues throughout the state, enabling health providers and the State Health Officer to monitor and gauge the rate and locations of new cases with accurate information to promptly respond; and

**WHEREAS,** the State Health Officer has reported that data from certain jurisdictions and regions of the state (a) indicate periods of higher numbers of new cases over shorter periods of time accounting for larger percentage of the State's overall case count, (b) have higher percent incidence of positive cases per number of tests performed, (c) show evidence of shared workforce between jurisdictions with common risk factors, and (d) have other public health indicators reflecting on-going community transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, upon counsel and recommendation of the State Health Officer, Attala, Leake, Scott, Jasper, Neshoba, Newton, and Lauderdale Counties have been identified as regions that are at higher risk for transmission of COVID-19; accordingly, additional jurisdiction specific measures are necessary to disrupt the spread of the COVID-19 virus within those Counties to address and further limit person to person contact and other health and safety measures.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, and in consultation with the State Health Officer do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. This Executive Order applies only to Attala, Leake, Scott, Jasper, Neshoba, Newton, and Lauderdale Counties. The statewide Safer at Home instituted in Executive Order 1480 shall remain in full force and effect as issued until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 25, 2020.

II. As to Attala, Leake, Scott, Jasper, Neshoba, Newton, and Lauderdale Counties, Executive Order 1480 shall remain in full force and effect as issued until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 25, 2020, except as follows:

a. ***All Businesses:*** All businesses shall take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the Mississippi State Department of Health's and CDC's regulations, orders and guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to: social distancing; sending sick employees home; actively encouraging sick employees to stay home; separating and sending home employees who appear to have respiratory illness symptoms; adopting and enforcing regular and proper hand-washing and personal hygiene protocols; and daily screening of employees for COVID-19 related symptoms before beginning their shifts.

i. Each employee shall be screened at the beginning of their shift. Such daily screening shall include, at a minimum, the following questions, and any employee answering any question in the affirmative shall be sent home:

1. Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
2. Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
3. Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
4. Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
5. Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

ii. All employees shall be required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 to their supervisor, and any employee who exhibits any of the symptoms of COVID-19 during their shift shall be sent home immediately and advised to consult with their physician.

iii. Appropriate PPE shall be worn by all employees based on their duties and responsibilities and in adherence to state and local regulations and guidelines. Appropriate PPE shall include a face covering, covering the nose and mouth, for all employees who are unable to maintain a minimum of 6 feet of separation from other employees while on duty and during breaks, and such face coverings shall be cleaned or replaced at least daily.

iv. Hand sanitizer shall be provided to all employees. Hand sanitizer shall mean any hand antiseptic, hand rub, soap, or agent applied to the hands for purpose of removing common pathogens.

b. ***Retail Businesses***: In addition to the measures outlined above for All Businesses, Retail Business shall also adopt and enforce the following measures:

i. Employees who have contact with the public shall be provided a face covering, covering nose and mouth, and shall be required to wear that face covering while on duty, and such face coverings shall be cleaned or replaced at least daily.

ii. Customers shall wear a face covering, covering nose and mouth, while inside the retail business.

iii. Hand sanitizer shall be provided to all employees and shall be made available to customers at points of entry and exit, in or near the bathrooms, and at the cashier stations. Hand sanitizer shall mean any hand antiseptic, hand rub, soap, or agent applied to the hands for purpose of removing common pathogens.

iv. Retail business shall make all reasonable efforts to maintain 6 foot separation between customers (or parties of customers) at all times, including 6 foot separation while in cashier lines.

v. Carts and baskets and all other surfaces that are contacted by customers during the course of providing services shall be sanitized after each use by customers. All other high-touch areas, including all door handles shall be sanitized once every two hours at a minimum.

***c. Gatherings:***

i. All individuals shall maintain social distancing of a minimum of 6 ft. distance between each individual.

ii. Group gatherings/activities shall be limited to a maximum of 10 participants indoor and a maximum of 20 participants outdoor.

iii. Face coverings must be worn outdoors when attending public events (including live auctions and flea markets).

III. Delegate Authority to Issue and Enforce Quarantine and Isolation Orders:

a. Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(5) and § 33-15-31, the State Health Officer in consultation with the Governor is authorized and empowered to issue such orders as necessary to carry out, implement, and enforce any quarantine or isolation orders to contain and restrict transmission of COVID-19.

b. That this authority is in addition to, and consistent with, the Mississippi State Department of Health's authority to issue, maintain and enforce isolation and quarantine orders pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 41-23-5 and other controlling law.

c. Nothing in this Executive Order limits or alters the authority under Miss. Code Ann. §21-19-3 for a governing authority of a municipality from enacting and enforcing more restrictive measures to contain and restrict transmission of COVID-19.

IV. Enforcement:

a. This Executive Order may be enforced by all State, County and Local law enforcement, as well as by other governmental entities (such as State and local departments of health) to the fullest extent under Mississippi law including, *inter alia*, Miss. Code. Ann. §§ 33-15-11(b)(5) and 33-15-11(b)(6).

b. Violations of this Executive Order are subject to the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-43.

V. This Executive Order shall remain in effect and in full force from date signed until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 25, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

**DONE** in the City of Jackson, on the 12TH day of May, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

**TATE REEVES**
**GOVERNOR**

**BY THE GOVERNOR**

**MICHAEL WATSON**
**SECRETARY OF STATE**