STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7III

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – MANDATORY SELF-QUARANTINE OF TRAVELERS ARRIVING FROM STATES WITH HIGH COVID-19 INFECTION RATES AND EXTENSION OF CERTAIN DEADLINES APPLICABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration 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 Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued sixty-one (61) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; 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, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

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

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and

WHEREAS, upon a proclamation that a public health or civil preparedness emergency exists, section 28-9(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the modification or suspension in whole or in part by executive order of any statute or regulation or requirement or part thereof that

conflicts with the efficient and expeditious execution of civil preparedness functions or the protection of public health; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2020, I issued Executive Order No. 7BBB, which directed the Commissioner of Public Health to issue a travel advisory that, with limited exceptions, advises travelers from other states with certain levels of infection rates to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Public Health has issued the travel advisory required by Executive Order No. 7BBB; and

WHEREAS, the state's ability to track and enforce a travel advisory is essential to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 by individuals travelling to Connecticut from states with infection rates that make them subject to the travel advisory; and

WHEREAS, the safety measures required to limit transmission of COVID-19 have required the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to delay in-person administrative hearings since March 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7C extended deadlines and timelines that included notice to Respondents and conduct of hearings for a period of ninety (90) days; and

WHEREAS, although DMV has resumed hearings through videoconferencing, a significant volume of hearings remains necessary to ensure the safety of motorists, and such hearings cannot be scheduled within existing statutory timeframes;

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. **Repeal of Advisory Self-Quarantine.** Executive Order No. 7BBB, Section 1 is repealed.

2. **Mandatory Self-Quarantine for Travelers from States with High COVID-19 Levels.** Effective at 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 24, 2020, Section 19a-131a of the Connecticut General Statutes is hereby modified to add a new subsection as follows:

   (g) (1) For purposes of this subsection, an "Affected State" means a state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than a 10% test positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average; and an "Affected Traveler" means a person who has spent twenty-four hours or longer in an Affected State within fourteen days prior to arriving in Connecticut, but does not include an individual remaining in Connecticut for less than twenty-four hours.

   (2) All Affected Travelers shall self-quarantine for a period of fourteen days from the time of last contact with such Affected State, for any portion of such fourteen-

day period they spend in Connecticut, or for the duration of such Affected Travelers' stay in Connecticut, whichever is shorter.

(A) **Testing Alternative.** If an Affected Traveler is unable to self-quarantine for the required period, the self-quarantine requirement will not apply provided that the Affected Traveler has had a negative test result for COVID-19 in the seventy-two hours prior to arriving in Connecticut and provides written proof to the Commissioner or her designee of such a result. If a test was obtained in the seventy-two hours prior to travel but the result is still pending at the time of arrival in Connecticut, such Affected Traveler shall remain in self-quarantine in Connecticut until the test result is received and the written results are submitted to the Commissioner or her designee.

(B) **Exempted Travel.** Workers traveling from Affected States to Connecticut who work in critical infrastructure as designated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, including students in exempt health care professions, are exempted from this self-quarantine requirement when such travel is related to their work in Connecticut. This includes any state, local, and federal officials and employees traveling in their official capacities on government business. If such worker was in an Affected State for a reason other than Connecticut-related work (e.g., vacation), such worker shall self-quarantine and complete the Travel Health Form in accordance with this subsection.

(C) **Additional Protocols.** The Commissioner of Public Health may issue additional protocols for other extraordinary circumstances or when a self-quarantine is not possible, provided such measures continue to safeguard public health.

(3) **Travel Health Forms Required.** All Affected Travelers, prior to or upon arrival in Connecticut, shall complete a Travel Health Form developed by the Commissioner requiring such persons to disclose their name, the last Affected State in which such Affected Traveler has spent twenty-four hours or longer, last date of stay in such Affected State, date of arrival in Connecticut, address of designated self-quarantine location in Connecticut, length of stay, address in home state, cell phone number, contact phone number while in Connecticut, method of travel into Connecticut and information regarding accompanying minors. All Affected Travelers shall complete a Travel Health Form and submit it either electronically at ct.gov/travelform or to any location or person designated by the Commissioner. Such Travel Health Form may be modified by the Commissioner as she deems necessary.

(4) **Enforcement Provisions.**

(A) Any Affected Traveler who violates this subsection by willfully refusing or failing to self-quarantine or complete the Travel Health Form truthfully and accurately shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars for each such violation. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit, alter, modify or suspend any other existing penalties that otherwise apply to violations of orders issued pursuant to a civil preparedness or public health emergency.

(B) The Department of Public Health (the "Department") may impose the civil penalty authorized by this subsection by providing the Affected Traveler with a written notice of civil penalty. The commissioner may delegate to local or district health directors the authority to issue a written notice of civil penalty authorized by this subsection.

(C) Any person assessed with a notice of civil penalty authorized by this subsection may, within five business days of the date of the notice of civil penalty, request a hearing before the Commissioner, which hearing shall be held within fifteen business days of receipt of the request. At any such hearing, the Department shall be required to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Affected Traveler willfully refused or failed to self-quarantine or willfully refused or failed to truthfully and accurately complete the Traveler Health Form, or both. The Department shall have the authority to issue subpoenas, compel testimony and order the production of books, records and documents in order to put on its case.

(D) Failure to make a timely request for a hearing shall result in a final order imposing the civil penalty. A hearing request, to be timely, shall be submitted to the department electronically or mailed and postmarked within five business days of the date of the notice of civil penalty.

(E) A hearing under this section shall be deemed a contested case in accordance with Chapter 54 of the General Statutes. A final order of the Department assessing a civil penalty shall be subject to appeal as set forth in section 4-183 of the General Statutes.

(F) The Department may waive the civil penalty upon such terms and conditions as, in its discretion, it deems proper or necessary.

(5) The Commissioner shall issue a travel advisory, which shall be communicated widely at all major points of entry into Connecticut, including on highway message boards and Connecticut airports, communicating the requirements of this subsection. Such travel advisory may include additional protocols for other extraordinary circumstances or when self-quarantine is not possible, provided such measures continue to safeguard the public health.

3. **Extension of Statutory or Regulatory Deadlines by Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.** Notwithstanding any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may extend, as she deems reasonably necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic or its effects, any statutory or regulatory time requirements, decision-making requirements, notice, hearings, or other time limitations or deadlines, procedure or legal process pertaining to matters under her jurisdiction, functions or powers in Title 14 of the Connecticut General Statutes for a period of ninety (90) days. Such authority shall include the ability to further extend without lapse any deadlines extended pursuant to Executive Order No. 7C, Section 7 and which would have expired on or before July 13, 2020.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for six months, unless earlier modified or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 21st day of July, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State