STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 51-20

By the Governor

WHEREAS, a State of Emergency was declared on the Sixteenth Day of March, Two Thousand Twenty for all counties in West Virginia (the "State of Emergency Declaration"), to allow agencies to coordinate and create necessary measures to prepare for and respond to the outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 6 of the Code of West Virginia authorizes the Governor to, among other things, control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area or an area where large-scale threat exists, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein, and to perform and exercise other functions, powers, and duties that are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 9-20 required all businesses and operations in West Virginia, except Essential Businesses and Operations as defined therein, to cease all activities within the state except for such minimum basic operations as are necessary to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or related functions, and the minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences, and provided exceptions for businesses such as home-based businesses and certain small businesses while requiring proper social distancing and hygiene practices be maintained at such businesses; and

WHEREAS, since the issuance of Executive Order 9-20 and other executive orders ordering closed or otherwise limiting occupancy of certain establishments and facilities in this state, implementation of successful public health measures has resulted in revised projections of rates of infection and COVID-19 related deaths in West Virginia, as well as ever-strengthening supply chains for personal protective equipment and other medical equipment and supplies, resulting in greater preparedness and response capacity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, I, Governor Jim Justice, announced the state's reopening plan, West Virginia Strong: *The Comeback* (the "Comeback Plan"), to phase in the reopening of businesses in the state of West Virginia on a week by week basis to most effectively monitor and respond to the public health effects of this phased reopening, to be based upon certain metrics and conditions to safely reopen segments of West Virginia's economy and get our citizens back to work, while ensuring the health and protection of all West Virginians, and especially the state's significant elder and vulnerable population who are at most risk from the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 28-20 and Executive Order 30-20 allowed for the resumption of all medical procedures throughout the state while requiring that hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers around the state limit procedures to only more urgent procedures to ensure adequate response capacity and preserve necessary personal protective equipment and other resources at such facilities in the event of any surge of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, under the Comeback Plan, the phased reopening of businesses and activities in West Virginia has allowed our public health experts to effectively monitor the numbers of cases and rate of spread of the virus within this State and across the nation, and to make recommendations based upon the most current data available; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia's public health experts have advised that reinstituting the prohibition on fairs, festivals, and similar events, reinstituting the prohibition on live music performances, even in outdoor or open-air settings, and decreasing the purely social gathering size limitation from 100 people to 25 people, is appropriate at this time; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM JUSTICE, pursuant to the authority vested in me pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 6 and Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 1 of the Code of West Virginia, hereby **DECLARE** and **ORDER**, effective as of 12:01 AM, Eastern Standard Time, on the Fourteenth day of July, Two Thousand Twenty, as follows:

1. The following provisions of Executive Order 9-20, as previously amended by Executive Orders 32-20, 36-20, 37-20, 39-20, 40-20, 41-20, 42-20, 43-20, 45-20, and 49-20 are hereby further amended and supplemented as follows:

    a. Section 1.g., as amended, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following to decrease the gathering size restriction from 100 people to 25 people:

        "g. Engaging in outdoor activity, provided that individuals at all times and as much as reasonably possible maintain social distancing of six feet from one another and abide by a 25-person limitation on gathering size; provided that such 25-person limitation does not apply to outdoor activities that have been deemed essential, including by way of example only certain sports or swimming pool activities and operations."

    b. Section 3.nn. is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following to reinstitute the prohibition on fair and festivals:

        "nn. **Amusement Parks.** Amusement parks may resume operations, but must ensure that proper social distancing and hygiene practices are maintained. Additional guidance, *Guidance for Fairs, Festivals, Amusement Parks and Rides*, is available at governor.wv.gov."

    c. Section 4, as amended, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following to reinstitute the prohibition of fairs, festivals, and like operations and events, and to reinstitute the prohibition of live music, even in outdoor or open-air settings, adding such activities and operations to the list of prohibited activities:

        "4. **Prohibited activities.** Carnivals, fairs, concert and music halls, adult entertainment venues, and other similar businesses shall be

closed, and indoor or outdoor live music performances shall be prohibited; provided, however, that the following specific outdoor recreational businesses and activities may resume operations as follows:

a. The Hatfield McCoy Trail System may reopen in accordance with the guidance, *A Guide to Safely Opening & Operating the Hatfield McCoy Trail System*, available at governor.wv.gov;

b. Outdoor recreation outfitters may reopen in accordance with the guidance, *A Guide to Safely Reopening Outdoor Recreation Outfitters*, available at governor.wv.gov;

c. Whitewater rafting businesses may resume operations in accordance with the guidance, *A Guide to Safely Reopening Whitewater Rafting*, available at governor.wv.gov; and

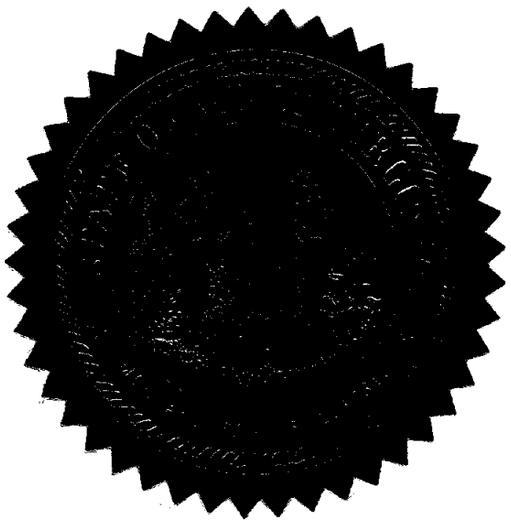
d. Ziplining businesses may resume operations in accordance with the guidance, *A Guide to Safely Reopening Zipline Outfitters*, available at governor.wv.gov."

d. Section 5 is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following to decrease the social gathering size restriction from 100 people to 25 people:

"5. **Avoid social gatherings.** All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes permitted by this Order including for purposes of any Essential Businesses and Operations. Any gathering of more than 25 people, unrelated to any Essential Businesses and Operations, is prohibited unless exempted by this Order. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or residence."

[Signature Page Follows]

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



DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Thirteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty in the One Hundred Fifty-eighth year of the State.

GOVERNOR

By the Governor

SECRETARY OF STATE