State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 20-030

HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR INDOOR DINING AT RETAIL FOOD OR BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 183

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order 103, declaring the existence of a Public Health Emergency, pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act, N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq., and a State of Emergency, pursuant to the Disaster Control Act, N.J.S.A. App A:9-33 et seq., in the State of New Jersey for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Emergency was extended by Governor Murphy under Executive Orders 119, 138, 151, 162, 171 and 180; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 150, allowing restaurants, cafeterias, dining establishments, and food courts, with or without a liquor license, bars, and all other holders of a liquor license with retail consumption privileges (collectively, “food or beverage establishments”) to offer in-person service at outdoor areas as of June 15, 2020, subject to certain requirements and if they operate in compliance with health and safety standards issued by the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2020, the Department of Health issued Executive Directive No. 20-014, “COVID-19 Protocols for Food or Beverage Establishments Offering Service in Outdoor Areas Pursuant to Executive Order No. 150;” and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 157, which, among other things, announced the limited resumption of indoor dining; and

WHEREAS the resumption of indoor dining was then put on hold in Executive Order No. 158, in light of COVID-19 spikes in states around the nation that attributed their rising caseloads to activities in indoor food and beverage establishments; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 183, allowing indoor dining at retail food or beverage establishments, subject to certain requirements and if they operate in compliance with the health and safety standards issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, under the declared public health emergency, the Commissioner of the Department of Health is empowered, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:13-12, to take all reasonable and necessary measures to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and apply proper controls and treatment for infectious disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDITH PERSICHILLI, Commissioner of the DOH, pursuant to the powers afforded to me under the Emergency Health Powers Act, hereby ORDER and DIRECT the following:

1. This Executive Directive pertains to indoor dining at retail food or beverage establishments as defined in Executive Order No. 183.

2. Establishments covered by this Executive Directive shall comply with the attached Department of Health protocols, entitled “Health and Safety Standards for Indoor Dining,” as amended and supplemented.

This Directive shall take effect immediately. The provisions of this Directive shall remain in force and effect for the duration of the public health emergency originally declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020), and as extended by Executive Order, unless otherwise modified, supplemented and/or rescinded.

September 1, 2020

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Judith Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.
Commissioner