STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7HHH

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR OUT-OF-STATE HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

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 (60) 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, pursuant to an order from the Commissioner of Public Health, healthcare providers from outside Connecticut have greatly enhanced the provision of healthcare services in Connecticut during the COVID-19 pandemic and thereby fundamentally improved the state's ability to protect public health at critical time; and

WHEREAS, the statutory limitation that allows the Commissioner of Public Health to authorize such providers to practice in Connecticut for only 60 days without licensure or certification inhibits the state's ability to continue to respond to the pandemic and to prepare for any possible resurgence of COVID-19 infections;

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. **Authorization for Continued Temporary Suspension of the Requirements for Licensure, Certification or Registration of Out-of-State Providers.** Section 19a-131j(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes is hereby modified to allow the Commissioner of Public Health to temporarily suspend, for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, the requirements for licensure, certification or registration pursuant to chapters 368d (Emergency Medical Services), 370 (Medicine and Surgery), 376 (Physical Therapists), 376a (occupational therapist), 376b (alcohol and drug counselor), 376c (radiographer, radiologic technologist, radiologist assistant and nuclear medicine technologist), 378 (Nursing), 378a (Nurse's Aides), 379 (dentist), 379a (dental hygienist), 381a (Respiratory Care Practitioners), 382a (behavior analyst), 383 (Psychologists), 383a (Marital and Family Therapists), 383b (Clinical Social Workers and Master Social Workers), 383c (Professional Counselors), 383d (genetic counselor), 383f (music therapist), 383g (art therapist), 384b (dietician-nutritionist), 384d (Emergency Medical Services Personnel), 399 (speech and language pathologist); and 400j (Pharmacy), to allow persons who are appropriately licensed, certified or registered in another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, to render temporary assistance in Connecticut within the scope of the profession for which a provider is licensed, certified or registered. This order shall supersede Section 3 of Executive Order No. 7DD.

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 14th day of July, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State