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D 2021 032

Amending and Extending Executive Orders D 2020 100, D 2020 133, D 2020 161, D 2020 184, and D 2020 215, D 2020 242, D 2020 273, and D 2021 004 Ordering Expedited Unemployment Insurance Claim Processing to Provide Relief to Coloradans Affected by COVID-19

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq*., I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order amending and extending Executive Order D 2020 100, as extended by Executive Orders D 2020 133, D 2020 161, D 2020 184, D 2020 215, D 2020 242, D 2020 273, and D 2021 004 for an additional thirty (30) days, ordering expedited unemployment insurance (UI) claim processing due to the presence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado.

I. Background and Purpose

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb, and we have evidence of community spread throughout the State. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended or extended by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, D 2020 125, D 2020 152, D 2020 176, D 2020 205, D 2020 234, D 2020 258, D 2020 264, D 2020 268, D 2020 284, D 2020 290, D 2020 296, D 2021 009, D 2021 022, and D 2021 028. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020.

My administration, along with other State, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our health care resources.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 are significant, and threaten to undermine the economic stability of many Coloradans and local businesses. The risk of contamination posed by COVID-19 necessitated closure of multiple businesses. Employers and employees in virtually all sectors of the economy have been hard hit. We must take action to shore up economic security, employment, community cohesion, and community recovery. While we have seen indications that our efforts to "flatten the curve" are working, transmission of the virus continues to threaten

Coloradans' way of life and livelihoods. Many Coloradans continue to rely on unemployment insurance to meet their basic needs.

This Executive Order amends and extends Executive Order D 2020 100, as extended by Executive Orders D 2020 133, D 2020 161, D 2020 184, D 2020 215, D 2020 242, D 2020 273, and D 2021 004, which expedites processing of unemployment insurance claims for Coloradans and will help protect the economic well-being of Colorado's communities impacted by COVID-19.

II. Amendment

Section II of Executive Order D 2020 100, as extended by Executive Orders D 2020 133, D 2020 161, D 2020 184, D 2020 215, D 2020 242, and D 2020 273, and D 2021 004, is amended as follows:

1. Section II.C.1 is amended as follows:

   C.R.S. § 8-73-107(1)(d) that UI benefit recipients serve an unpaid waiting week prior to receiving benefits.

III. Duration

Executive Order D 2020 100, as extended by Executive Orders D 2020 133, D 2020 161, D 2020 184, D 2020 215, D 2020 242, D 2020 273, D 2021 004 and this Executive Order, shall expire thirty (30) days from January 31, 2021, unless extended further by Executive Order. In all other respects Executive Order D 2020 100, as extended by Executive Order D 2020 133, D 2020 161, D 2020 184, D 2020 215, D 2020 242, D 2020 273, and D 2021 004 shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this thirty-first day of January, 2021.

Jared Polis
Governor