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D 2020 178

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Extending Executive Orders D 2020 127 and D 2020 154 Protect Our Neighbors

Pursuant to the authority vested in 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 extending Executive Orders D 2020 127 and D 2020 154 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 there is 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 by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, D 2020 125, D 2020 152, and D 2020 176. 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 virus that causes COVID-19 is spread primarily by close contact between people and through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can also be spread through contact with contaminated surfaces. Public health experts recommend we practice Social Distancing, or maintaining a physical distance of six (6) feet or more from other people, as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19. This is especially important for individuals at risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Evidence shows that Social Distancing and the Stay at Home Executive Order D 2020 017, as amended, helped to slow the rate of infection and ensured that Coloradans who needed it had access to healthcare resources.

Through the Safer at Home Executive Order D 2020 044, as amended, and the Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors Executive Order 2020 091, as amended, my administration took steps to return Coloradans to work while continuing the efforts to "flatten the

curve" and protect the public's health. Under Safer at Home and Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors, Coloradans were encouraged to continue to practice Social Distancing from others at a high level and implement other measures, such as limited social interactions, taking extra precautions for individuals at risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and wearing non-medical masks while in public to facilitate reopening the economy.

As the number of outbreaks decreases in a particular area, we will move into the next phase: Protect Our Neighbors. Local communities that meet certain qualifications can apply to become a Protect Our Neighbors Community. These communities will have: strong underlying public health and health care capacity that can respond to larger outbreaks; strong compliance with statewide standards; and the ability to enforce guidelines and public health orders.

If a community cannot maintain the required metrics for Protect Our Neighbors, the State will return them to the requirements of Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors. Because each community and each part of our State has different needs, Protect Our Neighbors allows communities to create unique and flexible plans within the statewide guidelines. Even as we continue to open our economy through Protect Our Neighbors, we must continue to protect and support people who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including individuals at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 such as older adults and people with underlying medical conditions.

On July 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order D 2020 127, implementing a number of measures that will allow local communities the opportunity to create flexible plans while still protecting the public's health. On August 7, 2020, I issued Executive Order D 2020 154, amending and extending Executive Order D 2020 127.

This Executive Order amends and extends Executive Order D 2020 127, as amended and extended by Executive Order D 2020 154, for an additional thirty (30) days.

II. Duration

Executive Order D 2020 127, as amended and extended by Executive Order D 2020 154, and as extended by this Executive Order, shall expire thirty (30) days from September 5, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order. In all other respects, Executive Order D 2020 127, as amended and extended by Executive Order D 2020 154, shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this fifth day of September, 2020.

Jared Polis
Governor