STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1495

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Mississippi significantly impacts the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, due to the State of Emergency as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19, I issued Executive Order 1458 providing to state agencies, boards, commissions and other state entities authority to grant certain employees administrative leave with pay to prevent the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 within the workplace; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, following the passage of Mississippi House Bill 1647, I issued Executive Order 1460 providing to the board of supervisors of any county, the governing authority of any municipality and the local school board of any public school district authority to grant certain employees administrative leave with pay to prevent the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 within the workplace; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, in order to minimize the risk of possible further transmission of COVID-19 and related measures, I issued Executive Order No. 1466 instituting a statewide Shelter in Place effective at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020, and remaining in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the guidance provided by the White House for beginning the process of reopening the economy while minimizing the risk of a resurgence of COVID-19, as of April 24, 2020, the incidences of infection in Mississippi had stabilized; there was decreased utilization of hospital resources; a robust testing system was in place capable of promptly detecting any increase in the rate of infection; the healthcare system was capable of treating persons with COVID-19 and had the capacity to promptly react to any increase in incidences; and the State had in place a plan to rapidly scale up healthcare capacity in the event of an increase in the rate of infection; accordingly, I issued Executive Order 1477 establishing the statewide Safer at Home order allowing certain businesses to open and operate under certain conditions, until 8:00 a.m. on May 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1484 directing all state agencies, boards, commissions, counties, municipalities, public school districts and other state and local entities to begin the process of returning all employees back to work; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1492 establishing the statewide Safe Return order to restart the economy, open all businesses and non-profits operating within the State of Mississippi, and permit the resumption of community activities subject to limitations to minimize person to person interactions and associated risk of transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in order to return to sustainable economic activity, consistent with the process started in Executive Order 1484 and measures under the Safe Return of Executive Order 1492 and to resume government operations on which Mississippi residents rely, it is necessary for all state

agencies, boards and commissions, as well as municipal and local government offices, agencies, school boards and commissions to resume all normal business operations; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi must protect lives while restoring livelihoods, both of which can be achieved with the expert advice of medical professionals and business leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, and in consultation with the State Health Officer, do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. Effective July 1, 2020, the administrative leave provisions in Paragraph 4 of Executive Order 1458 are rescinded, and the Appointing Authorities of agencies, boards, commissions and other state entities shall ensure that all offices have resumed normal business operations no later than that date. All leave granted to employees after the normal resumption of business operations on or before July 1, 2020, shall be in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and Mississippi State Personnel Board regulations.

II. Effective July 1, 2020, the administrative leave provisions in Paragraph 7 of Executive Order 1460 are rescinded, and the board of supervisors of any county, the governing authority of any municipality and the local school board of any public school district shall ensure that all offices have resumed normal business operations no later than that date. All leave granted to employees after the normal resumption of business operations on or before July 1, 2020, shall be in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

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

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 10TH day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

Tate Reeves

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

Michael Watson

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE