Office of
The Governor

No. 55 FY 19/20
DATE May 29, 2020

AN ORDER TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE RESTARTING PLAN

WHEREAS, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 and renewed states of emergency on April 14, 2020 and May 13, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State's response to the serious health and safety risks of the highly contagious COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, between March 18th and April 29th I issued FY 19/20 Executive Orders 14 (Gatherings, Restaurants and Bars), 19 (Essential Businesses), 28 (Stay at Home), 34 (Travel into Maine) and 49 (Extending those Orders while Restarting) that, for the reasons and upon the authorities stated therein, imposed until May 31st certain emergency rules and limitations necessary to respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020 I announced the implementation of the *Together We Are Maine: Restarting Maine's Economy Plan* (Restarting Plan), as the deliberative process to safely ease and lift prior restrictions on businesses and activities starting on May 1st, with successive phased-in actions to follow based on progress in limiting the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in implementing the Restarting Plan it has become necessary to phase out, align and continue certain prior Executive Orders governing such businesses and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. Ch. 13, including but not limited to the authorities cited in the Proclamations and Orders referenced above, do hereby Order as follows:

I. ORDERS

This section updates the application of certain prior FY 19/20 Executive Orders, as issued, amended and extended, governing the following businesses and activities addressed therein.

A. GATHERINGS

Effective June 1, 2020, and unless or until otherwise advised by guidance from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the restriction set forth in Executive Order 14 §I(A) on gatherings shall increase from 10 to 50 persons.

B. EATING ESTABLISHMENTS AND BARS

The restrictions on eating establishments and bars set forth in Executive Order 14 §I(B) shall continue to be eased consistent with the implementation of the Restarting Plan as advised by DHHS and CDC. The restrictions remain in effect upon those businesses not yet authorized to open until they are authorized under the Restarting Plan.

C. ESSENTIAL/ NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS

The distinction between essential and non-essential businesses set forth in Executive Order 19 shall continue to be phased out consistent with the implementation of the Restarting Plan. Any essential or non-essential business not authorized by Executive Order 19 or the Restarting Plan to be open shall continue to comply with pertinent provisions of Executive Order 19 until so authorized. Any business authorized now to be open shall comply with the pertinent COVID-19 Prevention Checklist or other State of Maine Guidance.

D. WORK FROM HOME

Until further notice, all businesses and operations shall to the extent practicable continue to have their employees work remotely consistent with Executive Order 19 §II(B). If a business or operation determines that remote work is not or is no longer practicable, such business or operation shall comply at the worksite with the pertinent COVID-19 Prevention Checklist or other State of Maine Guidance.

E. STAY SAFER AT HOME

The directives in Executive Order 28 §I(A) and Executive Order 49 §III that people "Stay Safer at Home" unless engaging in a service or activity authorized by Executive Order 19 or Executive Order 28 are eased to the extent that people may access the increased business and personal activities that are being reopened. Until further notice, persons who are over age 60 or who have a medically compromised condition are strongly urged to limit their movement and activities that expose them to persons other than immediate household members, and to avoid large gatherings, especially those occurring indoors or in otherwise confined settings.

F. VEHICLE TRAVEL

Until further notice, and in lieu of the restrictions set forth in Executive Order 28 §II, no one shall use public transportation unless necessary for an essential purpose; persons traveling in private vehicles shall limit passengers to their immediate household members; and commercial transportation must adhere to the pertinent COVID-19 Prevention Checklist.

G. LODGING AND TRAVELERS INTO MAINE

The closure of lodging set forth in Executive Order 34 §I(5) shall be eased consistent with the implementation of the Restarting Plan as advised by DHHS and CDC. The other interstate travel-related measures set forth in Executive Order 34 remain under review and remain in effect until further notice.

H. CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

In addition to the provisions set forth in Executive Order 49 §V, cloth face coverings shall be worn at large gatherings, including those held outside. Each place of business accessible to the public shall, as soon as reasonably practicable and not later than June 5, 2020, post readily visible signs notifying customers of the requirement to wear cloth face coverings in that setting. Such businesses may deny entry or service to a person who is not wearing a covering and is not otherwise exempt from the requirement to do so.

II. INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT

This Order is subject to interpretative guidance.

III. ENFORCEMENT

This Order is subject to all available methods of enforcement including, but not limited to, those identified in Executive Orders 14, 19, 28 and 34 FY 19/20.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order takes effect May 31, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

Janet T. Mills
Governor