STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7TT

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – FURTHER REOPENING ORDERS

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 forty-six (46) 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, public health experts have indicated that persons infected with COVID-19 may not show symptoms, and transmission or "shedding" of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and

WHEREAS, upon a proclamation that a 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, my administration has developed a phased plan for safely reopening businesses and resuming social, recreational, and other activities, including metrics or measures of effectiveness to guide decision-making on the timing and guidelines for such reopening; and

WHEREAS, positive test results, hospitalizations, and deaths related to COVID-19 continue to meet metrics for Phase 1 reopening and indicate that additional, controlled resumption of certain economic and social activity may be conducted safely; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) has issued Sector Rules for various business sectors (individually and collectively, the "Sector Rules"), which pursuant to prior executive orders are legally binding and enforceable and are necessary for the safe resumption of certain activities while reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and any potential upward trend in such measures of effectiveness;

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. **Reopening of Barbers and Hair Salons June 1.** Effective at 12:01 a.m. on June 1, 2020, Executive Order No. 7G, dated March 9, 2020, is amended to permit operation of hair salons and barbershops pursuant to the Sector Rules for Hair Salons and Barbershops, ("Sector Rules") issued by the Department of Economic and Community Development, which Sector Rules are and shall be deemed legally binding and enforceable.

2. **Amended Prohibitions on Large Gatherings.** Effective at 12:01 a.m. on June 1, 2020, Executive Order Nos. 7D, Section 1 and 7N, Section 1, as extended by Executive Order No. 7PP, Section 3, are amended as follows:

    a. Except as otherwise prohibited or otherwise addressed by law, including other executive orders or agency orders or rules issued pursuant thereto, indoor social and recreational gatherings as described in Executive Order No. 7D, Section 1 are permitted for up to and including ten (10) people. Except as otherwise prohibited or otherwise addressed by law, including other Executive Orders or agency orders or rules issued pursuant thereto, outdoor gatherings as described in Executive Order No. 7D, Section 1 are permitted for up to and including 25 people, provided that any such large outdoor public gatherings shall comply with the following restrictions and all other relevant and applicable executive orders governing conduct in public places:
        i. No contact sports or sports that include shared handling of objects such as balls or frisbees are allowed.

ii. Attendees shall remain six feet apart, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, and household members, and, except when dining, masks shall be worn when within six feet of those not in the same household.

iii. If the event is an organized gathering, the organizer shall demarcate six feet of spacing in the area of the gathering to demonstrate appropriate spacing for social distancing.

b. Sector Rules and Essential Business guidance imposing a 5-person limit on outdoor activities are superseded by this order and shall be updated accordingly, but all other restrictions in Sector Rules, Essential Business guidance, or any other executive order or agency order, as amended from time to time, shall remain in effect.

c. Effective immediately, the 49-person limit on religious, spiritual and worship gatherings is raised for indoor gatherings to 25% of capacity of the indoor space or a maximum of 100 people, whichever is smaller, and to 150 people for outdoor gatherings, provided in each case that appropriate safety and social distancing measures shall be employed. For any such gathering where participants remain in vehicles with windows closed and at least six (6) feet of space between vehicles, there shall no numerical attendance limit, provided all other laws are complied with.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified, extended or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 29th day of May, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State