STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1550

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, with vigilance and common sense, and as a result of the continued sacrifices made by all Mississippians in the interest of public health over the past eleven months, COVID-19 infections and resulting hospitalizations have been effectively managed and have significantly declined; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 1549 repealed the Safe Recovery Order and adopted reasonable guidelines and public health measures under the current circumstances permitting all businesses and non-profits to resume full operations within the State of Mississippi and permitting the continued resumption of all community activities subject to reasonable limitations to minimize person to person interactions and associated risk of transmission of COVID-19 and is set to expire at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021; 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; and

WHEREAS, as Mississippi continues to safely recover, the key to reducing the spread of COVID-19 is the continued implementation of reasonable public health measures under the current circumstances including social distancing, limited capacity of gatherings where individuals are in prolonged close proximity, and use of face coverings for individuals engaged in close proximity activities and for prolonged gatherings where social distancing is not feasible; and

WHEREAS, while in recent weeks, Mississippi has continued to see a sharp decline in COVID-19 infections and resulting hospitalizations, and the vaccine roll-out is continuing to proceed as expeditiously as possible, in consultation with the State Health Officer, in order to continue to disrupt the spread of COVID-19 and minimize person to person interactions and associated risk, it is necessary to continue some of the reasonable public health measures implemented in Executive Order 1549.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution, the Mississippi Emergency Management Law as amended, Miss. Code. Ann.§ 33-15-1 *et seq.*, and other laws of the State of Mississippi, and in consultation with the State Health Officer do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. Executive Order 1549 is extended and shall remain in full force and effect until Friday, April 30, 2021, except as follows:

   a. Paragraph VI of Executive Order 1549 is amended and superseded as follows:

VI. ***Indoor Arenas:*** Attendance at events held in indoor arenas, including college and university arenas, shall be limited as follows:

a. Seating Capacity: Seating capacity in all sections (bowl/arena seating, club areas and suites) shall be limited to a maximum of 75% of seating capacity.

b. All entry/exit gates and restrooms shall be open. Attendees should be encouraged to practice social distancing while waiting in line at entrance/exits and restrooms. Attendees shall not be permitted to congregate in the area around entrances/exits or restrooms.

c. Attendees are encouraged to wear a face covering, covering their nose and mouth, while inside the arena when social distancing is not possible from persons not in the same household.

b. Paragraph VIII of Executive Order 1549 is amended and superseded as follows:

VIII. ***K-12 Organized Extracurricular Events (Indoor Venues):***

a. Attendance at all K-12 indoor organized extracurricular events, including but not limited to athletic competitions, band performances and concerts, cheer performances, and theater performances shall be limited to a maximum of 50% of the indoor venue's seating capacity depending on space available to ensure social distancing between persons not in the same household.

b. All venue entry/exit gates and restrooms shall be open. Attendees are encouraged to practice social distancing while waiting in line at entrance/exits and restrooms. Attendees shall not be permitted to congregate in the venue around entrances/exits or restrooms.

c. Attendees are encouraged to wear a face covering, covering their nose and mouth, while inside any venue when social distancing is not possible from persons not in the same household.

II. This Executive Order shall be effective at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, and shall remain in full force and effect until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

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 31st day of March, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

Tate Reeves

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

Michael Watson

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE