# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## *Office of the Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1491**

**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 impact the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 26, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health announced new and expanded measures to increase testing and data analysis to identify regions and localities that are at higher risk for transmission of COVID-19 and to provide more location-specific restrictions and limitation of movement and social interaction to combat the virus in those regions and localities; 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**, on April 17, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1473 extending the statewide Shelter in Place, with certain additional exceptions, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 27, 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, the incidences of infection in Mississippi have stabilized; there is decreased utilization of hospital resources; a robust testing system is in place capable of promptly detecting any increase in the rate of infection; the healthcare system is capable of treating persons with COVID-19 and has the capacity to promptly react to any increase in incidences; and the State has in place a plan to rapidly scale up healthcare capacity in the event of an increase in the rate of infection; 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**, on April 24, 2020, 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 Monday, May 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 8, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1480 extending Executive Order 1477 as amended extending the Safer at Home order until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 25, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 22, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1488 further extending the Safer at Home order until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, continuing to follow a measured and strategic plan to reopen the economy is essential to the health, safety, and well-being of Mississippi residents, and in consultation with the State Health Officer, there are certain additional business operations and other activities that can safely resume under the limitations set forth herein.

**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. Paragraph II(p) of Executive Order 1487 is amended to allow outdoor sports complexes and multi-field complexes to open in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Mississippi State Department of Health for organized youth sports and subject to the following limitations:
   a. Team organized practices are permitted subject to the following limitations:
      i. League organizers and/or coaches are responsible for providing a copy of this Executive Order to all players and their parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to resuming team organized practices.
      ii. Each player shall be screened by a coach prior to entering the field for practice. Such screening shall include the following questions, and any player answering any question in the affirmative shall be sent home:
         - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
         - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
         - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
         - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
         - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
      iii. Players and their parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 to the coach, and any player that exhibits any of the symptoms of COVID-19 during practice shall be sent home immediately and advised to consult with their physician.
      iv. Park personnel, volunteers and coaches shall ensure social distancing is maintained between players during practice as much as possible.
      v. Players and coaches shall sanitize their hands before entering the field for practice and after practice.
      vi. Dugouts shall not be used during practice. Players' bags and equipment shall be lined up against the fence at least 6 feet apart.
      vii. Parents must remain in their cars during practice.
      viii. Players should use their own equipment, and any shared equipment shall be sanitized by the coach before and after each practice.
      ix. Players shall bring their own water/beverages and snacks. Shared drinking fountains, coolers and snacks are prohibited.
   b. Team organized games are permitted subject to the following limitations:
      i. Tournament or league organizers and/or coaches are responsible for providing a copy of this Executive Order to all teams and each player and their parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to resuming organized games.
      ii. The combined number of players and coaches participating in a game on a field and fans around the field watching the game shall not exceed 100 people.
      iii. Each player shall be screened by a coach prior to entering the field for a game. Such screening shall include the following questions, and any player answering any question in the affirmative shall be sent home:
         - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
         - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
         - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
         - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
         - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
      iv. Players and their parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 to the coach, and any player that exhibits any of the symptoms of COVID-19 during a game shall be sent home immediately and advised to consult with their physician.
      v. Coaches shall ensure social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible.

vi. Players and coaches shall sanitize their hands before entering the field for a game and after each game.

vii. For the safety of the players, dugouts may be used during games. To the extent possible, players shall social distance while in the dugout.

viii. Players should use their own equipment, and any shared equipment shall be sanitized by the coach before and after each game.

ix. Players shall bring their own water/beverage and snacks. Shared drinking fountains, coolers and snacks are prohibited.

x. Concession stands shall remain closed.

xi. Notwithstanding park or tournament rules, players and fans shall be allowed to bring to the field/complex personal coolers containing water/beverages and snacks for their personal use.

xii. Post-game interaction between teams such as handshakes, high five, etc. is prohibited. Coaches and tournament organizers are encouraged to develop other distance appropriate measures to show good sportsmanship.

xiii. When a game ends, the teams leaving the field shall sanitize the dugout area and the party responsible for sanitizing the dugout area shall be established before the game commences.

xiv. No post-game talks at the field are permitted. Fans and players shall immediately leave the field and return to their cars.

xv. Fan attendance shall be limited to two household members of each player on the field.

xvi. A sign shall be posted at all points of entry and at each field mandating that fans shall maintain at all times a minimum of six feet of separation from persons not in their household.

xvii. The use of bleachers for fans is prohibited. Fans must bring their own chairs or stand. Fans from different households shall maintain a distance of 6 feet of separation.

xviii. Fans are encouraged to wear a face covering, covering their nose and mouth, while attending games.

xix. Every league, tournament, event or facility shall have a dedicated Safety Officer to ensure that all elements of social distancing are enforced. The Safety Officer shall have sufficient staff to ensure that strict social distancing is observed by all players, coaches and fans at all times.

xx. Fans for upcoming games must remain in their cars until the teams and fans from the preceding game have exited from and around the field.

II. Paragraph I(h)(viii) of Executive Order 1477 is amended to allow movie theaters and auditoriums (collectively, "theaters") to open subject to the following limitations:

a. Prior to resuming operations, the theater, including areas not open to the public, shall be deep cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized.

b. Pursuant to Paragraph I(h)(ii) of Executive Order 1477, theaters shall make reasonable, good-faith efforts to comply with the Mississippi State Department of Health's and CDC's regulations and guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to: social distancing; sending sick employees home; actively encouraging sick employees to stay home; separating and sending home employees who appear to have respiratory illness symptoms; adopting and enforcing regular and proper hand-washing and personal hygiene protocols; and daily screening of employees for COVID-19 related symptoms before beginning their shift.

c. Prior to resuming operations, the theater shall ensure that the ventilation system is operating properly. For HVAC systems, filtration up to SARS-CoV-2 standards is recommended. Regular and frequent cleaning of HVAC intakes and returns is required.

d. Theaters shall conduct a daily screening of all employees at the beginning of their shift. Such daily screening shall include the following questions, and any employee answering any question in the affirmative shall be sent home:

- Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
- Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Have you had new loss of taste or smell?

- Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

e. All employees shall be required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 to their supervisor, and any employee who exhibits any of the symptoms of COVID-19 during their shift shall be sent home immediately and advised to consult with their physician.
f. All employees shall be provided training regarding minimizing the spread of COVID-19, including reinforcement of proper sanitation, hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette, and using PPE.
g. Appropriate PPE shall be worn by all employees based on their duties and responsibilities and in adherence to state and local regulations and guidelines. Every employee who comes into direct contact with customers shall be provided a face covering, covering the nose and mouth, and required to wear the face covering while on duty. Such face coverings shall be cleaned or changed at least daily.
h. The use of technology solutions to minimize person-to-person contact is encouraged, including online ticket purchasing and contactless payment.
i. Signage shall be posted at each entrance stating no customer with a fever or other symptom of COVID-19 is permitted in the movie theater.
j. Customers are encouraged to wear a face covering, covering nose and mouth, while inside the movie theater.
k. Showtimes shall be staggered to allow ample time for staff to clean and disinfect between shows/events and prevent customers from congregating in lobbies.
l. Ticket sales shall be limited to 50% of the seating capacity of the theater.
m. Social distancing (of a minimum of six feet) shall be observed at all points of sale and in waiting lines. Theaters shall train employees to insure that social distancing is observed and to discourage congregating in common spaces like lobbies, hallways, and restrooms.
n. Theaters are encouraged to develop new procedures for concession sales and pickup to minimize person-to-person contact such as grab-and-go options and single use utensils and condiments.
o. Movie theater auditoriums shall be cleaned and disinfected between shows.
p. All high-touch areas, including all door handles and counters shall be sanitized, at a minimum, once every two hours.
q. Hand sanitizer shall be placed at all points of entry and exit, as well as in concession areas.
r. Tables in any seated dining/party area shall be rearranged to ensure a minimum of six feet separation between tables. Seating shall be limited to a maximum of six guests per table.

III. Paragraph I(h)(viii) of Executive Order 1477 is amended to allow libraries and museums to open subject to the following limitations:

a. Prior to resuming operations, the library/museum, including areas not open to the public, shall be deep cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized.
b. Pursuant to Paragraph I(h)(ii) of Executive Order 1477, libraries/museums shall make reasonable, good-faith efforts to comply with the Mississippi State Department of Health's and CDC's regulations and guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to: social distancing; sending sick employees home; actively encouraging sick employees to stay home; separating and sending home employees who appear to have respiratory illness symptoms; adopting and enforcing regular and proper hand-washing and personal hygiene protocols; and daily screening of employees for COVID-19 related symptoms before beginning their shift.
c. Libraries/museums shall conduct a daily screening of all employees at the beginning of their shift. Such daily screening shall include the following questions, and any employee answering any question in the affirmative shall be sent home:
    - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
    - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
    - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
    - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
    - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

d. All employees shall be required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 to their supervisor, and any employee who exhibits any of the symptoms of COVID-19 during their shift shall be sent home immediately and advised to consult with their physician.
e. All employees shall be provided training regarding minimizing the spread of COVID-19, including reinforcement of proper sanitation, hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette, and using PPE.
s. Appropriate PPE shall be worn by all employees based on their duties and responsibilities and in adherence to state and local regulations and guidelines. Every employee who comes into direct contact with guests shall be provided a face covering, covering the nose and mouth, and required to wear the face covering while on duty. Such face coverings shall be cleaned or changed at least daily.
f. The use of technology solutions to minimize person-to-person contact is encouraged, including online ticket purchasing, contactless payment and self-checkout.
g. Signage shall be posted at each entrance stating no customer with a fever or other symptom of COVID-19 is permitted in the library/museum.
h. Guests are encouraged to wear a face covering, covering nose and mouth, while inside the library/museum.
i. The number of guests in the library/museum shall be limited to no greater than 50% of maximum capacity.
j. Social distancing (of a minimum of six feet) shall be observed throughout the library/museum.
k. Employees shall be trained to insure that social distancing is observed and to discourage congregating in common spaces.
l. Tables shall be rearranged to ensure a minimum of six feet of separation between tables. Seating at each table shall be limited to a maximum of six guests.
m. All high-touch areas shall be sanitized, at a minimum, once every two hours.
n. Hand sanitizer shall be placed at all points of entry and exit, as well as in concession areas.
o. Group tours and activities shall be limited to a maximum of twenty guests.
p. Museum cafes may resume food services subject to the limitations on in-house dining in Paragraph I(a) and its subparts of Executive Order 1478.

IV. This Executive Order shall take effect at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020, and shall remain in effect until 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 27TH day of May, 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
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE