CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR

Executive Order 2020-08

Second Extension of State of Emergency Declared in Executive Order 2020-04

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-04, An order declaring a state of emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor activated the Emergency Operations Center at the Incident Planning and Operations Center in Concord to assist in the State's response to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, April 3, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-05, an order extending the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04 for an additional 21 days; and

WHEREAS, as of April 24, 2020, during the State of Emergency, the Governor has issued Emergency Orders that, among other things, (i) require public K-12 schools to transition to remote instruction and support, (ii) prohibit scheduled gatherings of 10 or more and require restaurants and bars to transition to take-out and delivery only, (iii) temporarily prohibit disconnection or discontinuance of certain services, including public utilities, in the event of non-payment, (iv) temporarily prohibit evictions and foreclosures, (v) dramatically expand access to State unemployment benefits for individuals impacted by COVID-19, (vi) close non-essential businesses and mandate that Granite Staters stay home with limited exceptions, (vii) expand access to Telehealth Services to protect the public and healthcare providers, and (viii) restrict hotels and other lodging providers to provision of lodging for vulnerable populations and essential workers; and

WHEREAS, as of Friday, April 24, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that every U.S. state has reported cases of COVID-19 to the CDC, and that 828,441 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have occurred in the United States and territorial partners with 46,397 deaths; and

WHEREAS, experts anticipate that while a high percentage of individuals affected by COVID-19 will experience mild flu-like symptoms, some will have severe symptoms and require hospitalization, particularly individuals who are elderly or already have underlying chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, experts indicate that COVID-19 is most commonly spread from an infected symptomatic person to others through respiratory droplets, including:

- Through the air by coughing and sneezing;

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- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands;
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that COVID-19 may be spread before an infected person shows symptoms of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that COVID-19 is spread mainly from person to person, that COVID-19 is currently spreading very easily and sustainably, and that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of Friday, April 24, 2020, the CDC reports that all 50 U.S. states and territorial partners are reporting some community spread of COVID-19, meaning people have been infected with the virus who may not have the usual risks of international travel or known contact with a confirmed case; and

WHEREAS, in the 42 days since the Governor declared a State of Emergency, the COVID-19 outbreak in New Hampshire has expanded significantly; and

WHEREAS, as of April 24, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services has reported 1,720 cases of COVID-19; 53 deaths; 224 hospitalizations; 2,450 individuals are being monitored; and all 10 counties in the State have been impacted; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health has found that community-based transmission of COVID-19 continues to increase in the State and has been identified in the majority of counties; and

WHEREAS, the White House and CDC Slow the Spread Guidelines for COVID-19 remain in effect, and these guidelines direct Americans to, among other things, work from home whenever possible; avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people; avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts; and avoid discretionary travel; and

WHEREAS, state and local health and emergency response organizations must continue to use all available preventative measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, which will require access to services, personnel, equipment, facilities, and other resources, potentially including resources beyond those currently available, to prepare for and respond to any potential cases and the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, if COVID-19 spreads in New Hampshire at a rate comparable to the rate of spread in other states and countries, the number of persons requiring medical care may exceed locally available resources, and controlling outbreaks minimizes the risk to the public, maintains the health and safety of the people of New Hampshire, and limits the spread of infection in our communities and within the healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to continue to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Hampshire, implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, the outbreak of COVID-19 has confronted the State with an unprecedented public health emergency and with financial and economic devastation resulting therefrom, which require the State to respond rapidly to ensure that necessary supplies, economic infrastructure, and other appropriate emergency responses are provided immediately; and

WHEREAS, the response to this public health emergency is going to require additional time and extending the State of Emergency is critical to continue that work.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christopher T. Sununu, Governor of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution and New Hampshire RSA 4:45, I do hereby renew the Declaration of a State of Emergency due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and extend the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04 for a period of 21 days.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THAT:

1. All provisions of Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Order 2020-05, and all Emergency Orders issued pursuant thereto, shall remain in full force and effect through the expiration date of this Executive Order 2020-08.

2. All executive branch actions taken pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, as extended by Executive Order 2020-05, and the associated Emergency Orders shall remain in full force and effect through the expiration date of this Executive Order 2020-08.

3. In the interest of public transparency and recordkeeping, all additional Emergency Orders, temporary orders, directives, rules, and regulations made for the purpose of responding to the State of Emergency hereby extended shall be issued pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05 and 2020-08 and be reflected as such in writing on the Governor's Office website.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 24th day of April, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-four.

Christopher T. Sununu

GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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