The State of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #104

Relating to Declaring a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is spreading quickly throughout the general population, with more than 500,000 Wisconsinites having tested positive and 66 out of 72 counties having a very high disease activity level or greater;

WHEREAS, compounding the problem, on January 12, 2021, Wisconsin identified the first case of the new COVID-19 variant, which is considered to be significantly more contagious than the prior strains;

WHEREAS, this new highly contagious variant comes at a time when our healthcare system is already under great strain and our healthcare workers are exhausted;

WHEREAS, in addition to causing the tragic loss of more than 5,470 Wisconsinites to date, the rapid spread of COVID-19 places an enormous strain on Wisconsin's healthcare system, with 84 percent of all hospital beds occupied throughout the state and more than 800 patients hospitalized with a COVID-19 diagnosis and more than 200 of those patients in intensive care units;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is also placing a strain on hospitals by causing critical staffing shortages, with the State of Wisconsin and the Federal Emergency Management Agency providing emergency staffing assistance to ensure that care can continue to be provided to patients;

WHEREAS, the constraints on our healthcare system result in healthcare providers deferring treatment for non-COVID-19 conditions, which can put these patients at risk and yield higher long-term healthcare costs;

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the United States;

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2020, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the United States;

WHEREAS, the approval of these vaccines marked the beginning of the largest vaccination campaign in the history of the United States;

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin and its local health care partners are currently administering the vaccines to frontline healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities and, in the near future, to at-risk individuals;

WHEREAS, as of January 19, 2021, 248,185 doses have been administered to Wisconsinites, which comprises approximately 3.6 percent of the State's population;

WHEREAS, according to Bloomberg, Wisconsin is 16th in the Nation in percentage of allocated doses administered;

WHEREAS, despite the promise and hope that these vaccines provide, it will take time to vaccinate those most at risk of severe complications from contracting COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the federal government's delays in distributing these vaccines have slowed the progress in getting more people protected from the deadly virus; however, once additional vaccines are made available from the federal government, the more than 1,200 eligible vaccinators across the state will be ready to administer the increased supply;

WHEREAS, however, the majority of Wisconsinites are not yet vaccinated, making it more critical than ever that Wisconsinites continue to do everything they can to stop the spread of COVID-19, including: staying at home as much as possible; wearing a face covering whenever they are indoors with people who are not part of their household; staying at least six feet away from other people when they leave home, and washing their hands frequently;

WHEREAS, mitigation measures are critical to ensure that our healthcare system is not overwhelmed, which would impact *all* Wisconsinites in *every* part of the State who need any type of medical care; and

WHEREAS, to protect the life and wellbeing of Wisconsinites, Wisconsin must take additional actions to ensure Wisconsinites have access to health care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, and specifically by Sections 321.39, 323.10, 323.12, and 323.13 of the Wisconsin Statutes, hereby:

1. Determine that a disaster threatening and negatively impacting the life and health of Wisconsinites exists pursuant to Sections 323.10 and 323.02(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

2. Proclaim that a public health emergency, as defined in Section 323.02(16) of the Wisconsin Statutes, exists for the State of Wisconsin.

3. Designate the Department of Health Services as the lead agency to respond to the public health emergency and direct the Department to take all necessary and appropriate measures to address this public health emergency.

4. Authorize the Adjutant General to activate the Wisconsin National Guard as necessary and appropriate to assist in the State's response to the public health emergency.

5. Direct all state agencies to assist as appropriate in the State's ongoing response to the public health emergency.

6. Pursuant to Section 323.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes, this State of Emergency from this Public Health Emergency shall remain in effect for 60 days, or until it is revoked by the Governor or by joint resolution of the Wisconsin State Legislature.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Executive Residence in the Village of Maple Bluff in the City of Madison this nineteenth day of January in the year of two thousand twenty-one.

TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

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DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State