

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1460

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, the risk of spread of COVID-19 within Mississippi constitutes a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property within Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Mississippi and as of March 18, 2020, there are 34 presumptive and confirmed cases in Mississippi that have tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for responding to COVID-19 recommends avoiding crowds as much as possible, especially for older adults and individuals with serious chronic medical conditions and Mississippi State Department of Health has recommended avoiding social gatherings where 10 people or more may come into close contact; and

WHEREAS, limiting social interaction between members of the public to minimize the risk of person-to-person transmission includes school age children attending Mississippi public schools, who may be in a position to interact and transmit COVID-19 to other individuals, including vulnerable populations including older adults and individuals with serious chronic medical conditions; and

WHEREAS upon the recommendation of the State Health Officer and in consultation with the Mississippi State Board of Education, the temporary closing of all Mississippi public schools is a necessary measure to cope with the COVID-19 public emergency to minimize the interaction and risk of possible further transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, when Mississippi school districts close in response to COVID-19 they will need academic flexibility and relief from strict compliance with mandatory testing and accountability in order to achieve completion of essential grade-level instruction for the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, some Mississippi county and municipal governing authorities have temporarily closed or are operating on limited staffing in response to COVID-19 in order to minimize the interaction and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 between employees within governmental offices and between governmental employees and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, in order to minimize the risk of possible further transmission of COVID-19 and related measures, I issued Executive Order No. 1458 directing governmental entities including school districts to review and identify which employees perform essential duties to carry out the entity's core functions during the State of Emergency and those employees whose duties may not be essential during the State of Emergency. And, where feasible, for the entity to determine if core functions and duties could be performed by essential employees from

- c. The period(s) of time that the employee or a member of their immediate household is placed in quarantine or isolation as a result of being diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - d. Other reasons as determined by the governing authority in consultation with a health care professional that are necessary to prevent the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 within the employee's workplace.
8. That all departments, commissions, agencies, institutions, and boards of the State of Mississippi, political subdivisions thereof, counties, municipalities and school districts are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions and measures taken in response to COVID-19 during the State of Emergency.

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 19th day of March, 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

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1459

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, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Mississippi and as of March 16, 2020, there are 12 presumptive and confirmed cases in Mississippi that have tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is being adversely affected by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and there exists a continued threat to the public's safety, private property and the social and economic welfare to the state; and state assistance will be necessary to support local government response and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, civil authorities may require support from the Mississippi National Guard to cope with said emergency:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Sections 119 and 217, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, and Miss. Code Ann. Sections 7-1-5, 33-7-301 and 33-7-305, do hereby direct Major General Janson D. Boyles, Adjutant General, to order out such officers and enlisted personnel of the Mississippi National Guard as he deems necessary and requisite for such duration as he deems appropriate to assist state and local civil authorities. Major General Boyles will be in direct Command of the troops ordered to active duty and will use such equipment as necessary in his opinion to accomplish the support mission. The members of the Mississippi National Guard ordered to active duty under the provisions of this Order shall be subject to the provisions, privileges and immunities of the State of Mississippi, including those governing the Mississippi National Guard. Major General Boyles is authorized to request and accept such federal funding as may be available for the Mississippi National Guard under Title 32 of the United States Code and otherwise.

FURTHER, the pay and expenses of the troops ordered to State Active Duty shall be paid as provided in Miss. Code Ann. Sections 33-7-313, 33-7-315 and 33-9-15, unless said pay and expenses are borne by the United States of America pursuant to Title 32 of the United States Code or otherwise. All costs will be reimbursed as authorized by Miss. Code Ann. Section 33-15-307(4)(g) and/or other applicable Mississippi or federal law.



IN WITNESS 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 16 day of March, 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

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1458

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, the risk of spread of COVID-19 within Mississippi constitutes a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property within Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Mississippi and as of March 16, 2020, there are 12 presumptive and confirmed cases in Mississippi that have tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for responding to COVID-19 suggests avoiding crowds as much as possible, especially for older adults and individuals with serious chronic medical conditions, and the Mississippi State Department of Health has recommended avoiding large gatherings of more than 250 people; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi state agencies and governmental entities as well as school districts that have temporarily closed or are operating on limited staffing in response to COVID-19 in order to minimize the interaction and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 between employees within governmental offices and between governmental employees and members of the public will need flexibility to meet continuity of essential operations and to address the economic impact on employees who may be asked not to report to work if their duties are not deemed essential during any period of time during the State of Emergency; and

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, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. That due to the State of Emergency all State agencies, boards, commissions, Mississippi school districts, and other state entities are directed to promptly review and identify which employees perform essential duties to carry out the entity's core functions during the State of Emergency and those employees whose duties are not deemed essential during any period of time during the State of Emergency. And where feasible, as determined by the entity, if core functions and duties could be performed by essential employees from home in order to minimize the interaction and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 between employees.
2. That during the remainder of the school year school districts immediately begin working with the Mississippi Department of Education to develop and implement distance learning or other instructional means to achieve completion of essential grade-level instruction for the 2019-2020 school year.

3. That with appropriate social distancing school districts shall, where feasible, maintain sufficient staffing for preparation and transportation in order to continue to provide free and reduced meals to eligible students within their respective districts.
4. That due to the State of Emergency and pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-3-92(2)(b), agencies, boards, commissions, and other state entities may grant their employees administrative leave with pay for any one or more of the following reasons as determined by the appointing authority:
 - a. The period(s) of time that the employee's employer has closed in response to COVID-19.
 - b. The period(s) of time that the employee's supervisor has determined the employee's duties are deemed non-essential during any period of time during the State of Emergency.
 - c. The period(s) of time that the employee or a member of their immediate household is placed in quarantine or isolation as a result of being diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - d. Other reasons as determined by the appointing authority in consultation with a health care professional that are necessary to prevent the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 within the employee's workplace.
5. That all departments, commissions, agencies, institutions, and boards of the State of Mississippi or any political subdivisions thereof are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions and measures taken in response to COVID-19 during the State of Emergency.



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 16th day of March, 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

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State Health Officer has reported that there is a high risk for an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, identified as COVID-19, in the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Mississippi and the Mississippi State Department of Health has since that time worked to identify, contact, and test others in Mississippi potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "very high", and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; 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 CDC currently indicates there are approximately 106,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide with 1,323 of those cases in the United States, and the Mississippi State Department of Health has now confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Mississippi, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Mississippi's general public and creating an extreme public health risk that may spread quickly; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, I signed Executive Order No. 1457 to create the Mississippi Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response Planning Steering Committee chaired by the Mississippi State Health Officer in order to coordinate and assist with efforts related to implementation and review of Mississippi's pandemic preparedness and response to hazards related to the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi State Department of Health has instituted a Public Health Incident Management Team to manage the public health aspects of this outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Operations Center, is coordinating resources across state government to support the Mississippi State Department of Health and local officials in alleviating the impact to people, property, and infrastructure and is assessing the magnitude and long-term effects of the incident with the Mississippi State Department of Health; 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, the risk of spread of COVID-19 within Mississippi constitutes a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property within Mississippi.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), do hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi, and direct that the

Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented. Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann § 33-15-11(c), state agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist communities and entities affected by the outbreak.

As a result of this event, I also hereby direct the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and other agencies, boards, and commissions, to identify and provide appropriate personnel for conducting necessary and ongoing incident related assessments.

FURTHER, I direct the following:

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c)(1) the provisions of state statutes, rules, regulations or orders may be temporarily suspended or modified if compliance with such provisions would prevent, hinder, or delay action necessary to cope with this outbreak.

Health care facilities that have invoked their emergency operation plans in response to this outbreak may implement the "alternative standards of care" plans provided therein, and such are declared to be the state approved standard of care in health care facilities to be executed by health care professionals and allied professions and occupations providing services in response to this outbreak.

All health care professionals and assisting personnel executing in good faith under the "alternative standards of care" are hereby declared to be "Emergency Management Workers" of the State of Mississippi for the purposes of Miss. Code Ann. Title 41.

The State Health Officer shall inform members of the public on how to protect themselves and actions being taken in response to this outbreak.

The Mississippi State Department of Health and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency seek federal assistance as may be available.



IN WITNESS 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 14th day of March, 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 D. WATSON, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE