

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### ORDER

**Whereas**, on March 10, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont (the Governor), in response to the global pandemic of 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State of Connecticut pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to remain in effect through September 9, 2020, unless sooner terminated by the Governor; and

**Whereas**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor, in furtherance of the authority granted by virtue of such emergency declaration, issued Executive Order No. 7A to address critical public health issues regarding COVID-19; and

**Whereas**, said Executive Order provides that for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, or until such time as the Governor repeals or modifies Executive Order 7A, notwithstanding Section 19a-550(b)(12) of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other statute, regulation, local rule or ordinance or provision of law, the Commissioner of Public Health (Commissioner) is authorized to issue any and all orders restricting entrance into nursing home facilities, residential care homes or chronic disease hospitals (the Facility or Facilities) that she deems necessary to protect the health and welfare of patients, residents and staff; and

**Whereas**, on March 13, 2020, the Commissioner issued an Order imposing a complete ban on all visitors to such Facilities for a period of thirty days with certain stated exceptions and restrictions; and

**Whereas**, on April 21, 2020, the Commissioner issued an Order extending the March 13, 2020 Order in its entirety, with the same exceptions and restrictions, to last for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless sooner modified or terminated by the Commissioner by a future Order or the Governor's earlier repeal or modification of Executive Order No. 7A or termination of the public health and civil preparedness emergency; and

**Whereas**, on May 9, 2020, the Commissioner issued an Order modifying the April 21, 2020 order by adding specific requirements that mandate every Facility to facilitate communication between residents and their families, and other individuals; and



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**Whereas**, on June 12, 2020, the Commissioner issued an Order allowing in-person visitation between any parent, stepparent or legal guardian with their minor child or ward who is a patient in a Facility; and

**Whereas**, on August 27, 2020, the Commissioner issued an Order rescinding the Commissioner Order of May 9, 2020, and modifying the April 21, 2020 Commissioner Order to add requirements regarding general visitation provisions and to enact and expand compassionate care provisions for end stage of life and significant change of condition circumstances; and

**Whereas**, on September 1, 2020, the Governor renewed the March 10, 2020 declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall remain in effect until February 9, 2021, unless earlier terminated; and

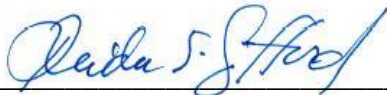
**Whereas**, the Governor's Executive Order No. 9A, dated September 8, 2020, reissued all executive orders issued pursuant to the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and renewed on September 1, 2020 that are unexpired and currently in effect as of September 8, 2020, to expire on November 9, 2020, unless earlier modified or terminated; and

**Whereas**, on September 17, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a memorandum to all State Survey Agency Directors setting forth new requirements regarding nursing home visitation and COVID-19 (CMS Visitation Memorandum); and

**Whereas**, the CMS Visitation Memorandum directs and expands nursing home visitation beyond the parameters set forth in the Commissioner's Order dated August 27, 2020.

**Now, therefore**, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Executive Order No. 7A, and in response to the ongoing public health crisis arising out of COVID-19, especially among elderly individuals and persons with co-morbid conditions, I hereby order that, effective immediately, all previous outstanding Commissioner Orders restricting entrance into any Facility, dated March 13, 2020, April 21, 2020, June 12, 2020, and August 27, 2020 are hereby rescinded.

Ordered this 25th day of September 2020



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Deidra S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner