

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## *Office of the Governor*



### EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1497

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

**WHEREAS**, as of June 9, 2020, there were 18,483 positive cases of COVID-19 in the State of Mississippi, with 868 of those cases having resulted in death; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential and urgent to ensure that Mississippi has adequate bed capacity, equipment, supplies, and healthcare providers to treat patients afflicted with COVID-19, as well as patients afflicted with other non-COVID conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, while a majority of jurisdictions throughout Mississippi show a stabilized rate of COVID-19 cases, cases continue to be diagnosed; and with the continued robust testing system in place to detect increases in the rate of infection, it is essential to ensure that the healthcare system remains capable of treating persons with the COVID-19 and has the capacity to promptly react to any increase in incidences; and

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing healthcare need to maintain capacity exists requiring the continuation of measures to ensure the state of Mississippi has sufficient capacity and resources of Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities to diagnose, treat and care for those diagnosed with COVID-19, many of whom may require emergency or intensive care; and

**WHEREAS**, with the continued number of cases diagnosed, the number of patients in an ICU among other healthcare factors, for the preservation of public health and safety throughout the entire State of Mississippi there is a continued and compelling need to maintain and maximize participation of Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities in treating COVID-19 patients to ensure that Mississippians have access to treatment when needed; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 10, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1471 to provide certain liability protections to Mississippi Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities until May 15, 2020, unless modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 15, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1485 extending certain liability protections to Mississippi Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities until May 31, 2020, unless modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 29, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1494 further extending certain liability protections to Mississippi Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities until June 15, 2020, unless modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded; and

**WHEREAS**, although Mississippi law provides some protections for Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Facilities assisting in the effort to combat COVID-19, it is necessary to continue

to maintain additional protections against liability established in Executive Order 1471, as extended by Executive Orders 1485 and 1494 for an additional period of time during which Mississippi's healthcare system must sustain the level of care during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure Mississippi's healthcare system has adequate capacity to provide care to all who need it.

**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. Executive Order 1471 is amended to extend its duration to continue in full force and effect until 11:59 p.m. July 1, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.



**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 12<sup>TH</sup> day of June, 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**