

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE**

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, by Proclamation dated March 14, 2020, issued by Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, a state of emergency was declared pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section 33-15-11, in order to address the high risk for an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, identified as COVID-19, in the State of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control(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**, the Proclamation has invoked the emergency powers of the Governor pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section 33-15-11(c)(1) to temporarily suspend or modify any rule or regulation of a state agency which would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, for purposes of Executive Order 1463 as supplemented, Essential Business or Operation means, and is not limited to, essential services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operations of residences and essential businesses and essential business operations, including law enforcement, fire prevention and response, firearm and ammunition manufacturers and retailers, building code enforcement, security, emergency management and response, building cleaning including disinfection, automotive sales and repair, mortuaries and cemeteries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mississippi State Board of Funeral Service, an agency of the State of Mississippi, wishes to comply with the Governor’s proclamation and take steps necessary to address and modify rules/regulations which would significantly increase the risk of exposure and infection to Mississippi’s general public and create a health risk that may spread quickly;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 1507 applies only to Claiborne, Desoto, Grenada, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Quitman, Rankin, Sunflower, Washington, and Wayne Counties. The statewide Safe Return instituted in Executive Order 1492 as amended and extended by Executive Orders 1496, 1500 and 1505 shall remain in full force and effect as issued until 8:00a.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020.

**NOW THEREFORE**, until action is taken by the Governor of the State of Mississippi to lift the declared emergency the Mississippi State Board of Funeral Service makes the following modifications:

- I. As to Claiborne, Desoto, Grenada, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Quitman, Rankin, Sunflower, Washington, and Wayne counties,

Executive Order 1505 shall remain in full force and effect as issued until 8:00a.m. on Monday July 20, 2020, except as follows:

- a. **All Businesses:** All businesses shall attempt in good faith to follow the Mississippi Department of Health's and CDC's regulations, orders and guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to: social distancing; sending sick employees home; actively encouraging sick employees to stay home; separating and sending home employees who appear to have respiratory illness symptoms; adopting and enforcing regular and proper hand-washing and personal hygiene protocols; and daily screening of employees for COVID-19 related symptoms before beginning their shifts.
  - i. Each employee shall be screened at the beginning of their shift. Such daily screening shall include, at a minimum, the following questions, and any employee answering any question in the affirmative shall be sent home:
    1. Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
    2. Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
    3. Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
    4. Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
    5. Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
  - ii. All employees shall be required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 to their supervisor, and any employee who exhibits any of the symptoms of COVID-19 during their shift shall be sent home immediately and advised to consult with their physician.
  - iii. Appropriate PPE shall be worn by all employees based on their duties and responsibilities and in adherence to state and local regulations and guidelines. Appropriate PPE shall include a face covering, covering the nose and mouth, for all employees who are unable to maintain a minimum of 6 feet of separation from other employees while on duty and during breaks, and such face coverings shall be cleaned or replaced at least daily.
  - iv. Hand sanitizer shall be provided to all employees. Hand sanitizer shall mean any hand antiseptic, hand rub, soap, or agent applied to the hands for the purpose of removing common pathogens.
- b. **Gatherings:**
  - i. All individuals shall maintain social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet distance between each individual
  - ii. Social gatherings/activities shall be limited to a maximum of 10 participants indoor and a maximum of 20 participants outdoor. This

limitation shall not apply to gatherings governed by other capacity limitations.

- iii. Face coverings must be worn indoors and outdoors (when unable to maintain a minimum of 6 feet of separation from other individuals) when attending public events (including but not limited to events in outdoor sports complexes, multifield complexes and arenas).

II. **Enforcement:**

- a. This Executive Order may be enforced by all State, County and Local law enforcement as well as by other government entities (such as State and local departments of health) to the fullest extent under Mississippi law including, inter alia, *Miss. Code Ann. §§33-15-11(b)(5) and 33-15-11(b)(6)*.
- b. Violations of this Executive Order are subject to the provisions of *Miss. Code Ann. §33-15-43*.

**FURTHER**, except as specifically stated herein, all other regulations remain in full force and effect.

**SO ORDERED AND APPROVED** by the Mississippi State Board of Funeral Service this the 16<sup>th</sup> day July, 2020.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**