

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14A

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC –
EXTENSION OF COVID-19 ORDERS**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, September 1, 2020 and January 26, 2021, I declared and renewed public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2021, I signed into law Special Act 21-2, through which the General Assembly ratified the previously mentioned declarations and endorsed a renewal and extension of such declarations through May 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2021, I renewed and issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which ran concurrently and remained in effect through May 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, I signed into law Special Act 21-4, through which the General Assembly provided procedures for renewal of such declarations and authorized me to continue to exercise the emergency powers provided in Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes through July 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, I signed into law Special Act 21-5, through which the General Assembly provided procedures for renewal of such declarations and exercise of authorities pursuant thereto for the period after July 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2021, I renewed declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which run concurrently and remain in effect through September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declarations, I have issued various executive orders to protect public health, limit transmission of COVID-19, and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (the “COVID-19 Orders”); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a grave threat to public health and safety and civil preparedness in the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and transmission or “shedding” of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including under certain circumstances maintaining a safe distance from others and wearing masks or face coverings; and

WHEREAS, because COVID-19 has caused unanticipated health effects that are not fully understood by the medical community, residents, businesses, and government, agencies face new and unanticipated economic, fiscal, and operational challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, after rigorous testing and scientific evaluation, vaccines to protect against COVID-19 have been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for people aged 12 and over, and more than 213 million people in the United States have received at least one dose; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut continues to successfully conduct a campaign to vaccinate as many residents as possible against COVID-19, including having opened eligibility to all residents aged 12 or older, having vaccinated a large percentage of those most vulnerable to serious health effects from COVID-19, and having begun to administer [booster doses as recommended by the CDC](#) for elderly residents and others at significant risk from COVID-19 infection; and

WHEREAS, having consulted with agency leaders, department heads, municipal and legislative leaders, and other stakeholders, I have determined that a small number of unexpired COVID-19 Orders that remain critical to the protection of public health and safety and the maintenance of civil preparedness and will remain critical to ensuring an efficient and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to the continuation of Connecticut’s nation-leading vaccination campaign, continued provision of needed healthcare and childcare in a safe and effective manner to residents throughout the state, and mitigation of the devastating economic effects of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, [according to the CDC](#), “fully vaccinated persons are less likely than unvaccinated persons to acquire SARS-CoV-2, and infections with the Delta variant in fully vaccinated persons are associated with less severe clinical outcomes” and that “[i]nfections with the Delta variant in vaccinated persons potentially have reduced transmissibility than infections in unvaccinated persons, although additional studies are needed;” and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, “[serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unlikely following any vaccination](#), including COVID-19 vaccination.”

WHEREAS, individuals’ decisions to receive a vaccination contribute to the protection of public health and particularly to the protection of those who are not eligible or for medical reasons are unable to receive a vaccine, and conversely, a significant percentage of the population remaining unvaccinated increases the risk of transmission for those vulnerable people and the risk of a variant emerging that will evade vaccine effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the safe and efficient provision of critical public services and the protection of vulnerable populations requires that state employees, people who work schools or childcare settings, and workers in certain healthcare facilities, including long-term facilities, be vaccinated against COVID-19, unless the particular circumstances permit testing as an alternative; and

WHEREAS, operational and safety rules for schools and child care settings remain necessary to ensure the safety of children in those settings, all of whom remain ineligible for vaccination if they are younger than 12 years; and

WHEREAS, providing non-congregate housing to people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations who might normally be housed in congregate shelters is essential to protecting these populations, who are less likely to have been vaccinated, from the increased risk of contracting COVID-19 present in congregate housing; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved extension of federal funding for such non-congregate housing provided that the state’s emergency order to provide such housing remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, the statutory deadlines for advancing summary process of eviction through the courts may hinder the ability to provide landlords and tenants sufficient time to access available federal assistance through the UniteCT program, thereby increasing the risk of homelessness for a population less likely to have been vaccinated and therefore at greater risk of contracting, spreading, and suffering serious symptoms from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 13A requires masks regardless of vaccination status in certain settings where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is higher or where the population within such settings faces a greater risk of severe health effects from COVID-19, and requires the Commissioner of Public Health to issue rules for the wearing of masks in such settings; and

WHEREAS, an effective and efficient vaccination campaign requires a comprehensive plan for funding that removes barriers to choosing to receive a vaccine, and such barriers may include out-of-pocket costs for patients or differences in costs for insurance carriers; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 9Q, Section 3 provides for such comprehensive funding scheme and thereby contributes to eliminating any differences in coverage for vaccine costs for insurance carriers regardless of where an individual chooses to be vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, to respond efficiently and expeditiously to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the continuation of the statewide vaccination and testing campaigns, it is necessary to waive certain statutory provisions to provide flexibility in state contracting procedures to ensure expeditious procurement of goods and services essential to the pandemic response; and

WHEREAS, the original justifications for the COVID-19 Orders being extended herein remain valid; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2021, I renewed through February 15, 2022 the previously mentioned emergency declarations in accordance with the requirements of Special Act 21-5; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2021, the General Assembly approved by resolution the renewal of such emergency declarations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. Executive Order No. 14 is superseded in its entirety by this order. The following Executive Orders are extended through February 15, 2022:

7P, Section 1	13A	13G
9, Section 1	13C	11D, Secs. 2 & 3*
9Q, Section 3	13E	
12D	13F	

*See Section 4 below for revisions to these orders, which are now combined as Executive Order No. 14A, Sec. 4.

2. **Extension of Municipal or Agency Orders.** Any unexpired order, rule, regulation, directive, or guidance issued by any official, agency, department, municipality, or entity pursuant to an unexpired COVID-19 Order shall remain in effect through February 15, 2022, unless earlier modified or terminated by the issuing authority or a subsequent executive order or by the expiration of its enabling executive order.
3. **All Other Executive Orders to Expire at Midnight, September 30, 2021.** Any COVID-19 Order currently in effect that is not explicitly extended or modified by this Executive Order No. 14 shall expire at midnight on September 30, 2021.
4. **Modification of State Contracting Statutes to Facilitate the Emergency Procurement of Essential Goods and Services.** Executive Order 11D, Sections 2 and 3 are repealed and superseded by the following:
 - a. **Essential Goods.** The head of a state contracting agency may waive the provisions of Section 4a-57 of the Connecticut General Statutes which requires the competitive solicitation for all purchases and contracts for supplies, materials, services, and equipment, including, pursuant to Section 4d-8, the

purchasing, leasing, and contracting for information system and telecommunication system facilities, equipment, and services if he or she:

- i. Deems such waiver necessary to expedite the procurement of “essential goods,” defined as all thing which are movable at the time of contract, including, but not limited to supplies, materials, equipment, products, or devices that are manufactured, used, designed, developed, modified, licensed, or procured to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, treat, cure or limit harm that COVID-19 pandemic may cause; and
 - ii. Certifies in writing to the specific reasons that such exercise meets the requirement that the procurement is essential to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. **Essential Services.** The head of a state contracting agency may waive the provisions of Sections 4a-57, 4-70b(e), and 4-214 through 4-219 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which establish competitive solicitation requirements for Contractual Services, Personal Service Agreements, and Purchase of Services Agreements if he or she:
- i. Deems such waiver necessary to expedite the procurement of “essential services,” defined as all services which (1) are necessary for the servicing or supporting of persons who might be affected by COVID-19 and state agencies that are responding to COVID-19, including, but not limited to, cleaning, security, treatment, diagnosis, counseling, health-related care, and mitigating, preventing, curing or limiting the risk of transmission of COVID-19 within Connecticut or as part of any mutual aid agreement with one or more other states or (2) are necessary for supporting or servicing critical care, including but not limited to health-related care, food, housing and social supports, to vulnerable populations, including but not limited to children, the aged, and the disabled, and for state agencies to ensure delivery of such critical care to vulnerable populations; and
 - ii. Certifies in writing to the specific reasons that such exercise meets the requirement that the procurement is essential to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - iii. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, the head of a state contracting agency may use the authority under Department of Administrative Services General Letter 71, Section (e) to enter into Purchase of Service or Personal Service Agreements for the

procurement of essential services as previously defined. The head of the state contracting agency shall certify in writing to the specific reasons that such purchase meets the requirement that the procurement is essential to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This order and the extensions of orders provided herein shall take effect immediately and remain in effect through February 15, 2022, unless earlier modified or terminated, or unless individual orders or extensions contained herein are disapproved pursuant to Special Act 21-5.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 30th day of September, 2021.



Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

