



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Denise Merrill
Secretary of the State
State Capitol Hartford, CT 06106

Frederick J. Jortner
Clerk of the State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06016

Michael Jefferson
Clerk of the State Senate
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06016

RE: Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies

Dear Secretary Merrill and Clerks of the General Assembly:

On March 10, 2020, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that was affecting multiple countries and states and had resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and surrounding states, as well as resulting shortages of personal protective equipment and other supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness, and in order to provide me and other appropriate officials with all authorities necessary to limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus and protect public safety within the State of Connecticut, I declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State, pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Those states of emergency were to remain in effect through September 9, 2020.

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On September 1, 2020, in anticipation of the expiration of those states of emergency and in recognition of continued and newly emerging threats to public health and safety and civil preparedness posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I renewed the March 10, 2020 declarations and declared new public health and civil preparedness emergencies through February 9, 2021.

Since I declared and renewed those public health and civil preparedness emergencies, and due in no small part to the orders I have issued pursuant to those emergencies, Connecticut has made significant progress in limiting the spread of COVID-19 and mitigating its devastating public health and economic effects. And yet, while it has been more than a month since I have issued a new executive order, those orders currently in effect remain crucial to the state's civil preparedness and ability to protect the public health. COVID-19 remains a global pandemic, capable of spreading quickly within our state. New and unforeseen challenges have arisen since September of last year, when I declared new and renewed emergencies. The current, second wave and the recent mutations of the virus have made clear that many of the existing orders will remain essential beyond February 9. While our vaccination effort currently leads the country in many respects, an effective mass vaccination program requires that I be vested with all of the flexibility and resources that the declared states of emergency provide. As was true in September of last year, the risks to public health and to our state's economy would be heightened substantially if the existing emergencies expired as scheduled on February 9.

As a result, and for the same reasons I declared emergencies on March 10 and declared new and renewed emergencies on September 1, pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I am renewing the existing public health emergency and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State. In addition, I will be required in the coming months to respond to a number of additional public health and civil preparedness risks that were not clear concerns or justifications for the March and September 2020 emergencies. Among many other things, I will need to address and administer a mass vaccination program as well as the potential threat posed by new and more infectious variants of the disease. As I did in September, out of an abundance of caution and to eliminate any confusion about the extent of my emergency powers to address the many risks and concerns that will arise in the coming months and did not constitute clear justifications for the original emergencies I declared in March of this 2020 and again in September 2020, and pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I hereby declare that new states of public health and civil preparedness emergency exist throughout the State.

These new and renewed states of emergency shall run concurrently and remain in effect until April 20, 2021, unless earlier terminated by me. The Department of Public Health, along with municipal and district health departments, as well as multiple other state agencies in supporting roles, are responding to these renewed public health and civil preparedness emergencies. As I did at the time I declared and renewed the public health and civil preparedness emergencies on March 10 and September 1, and in accordance with Section 19a-131a (f) of the Connecticut General Statutes, I hereby authorize and direct the Commissioner of Public Health to delegate the powers regarding

isolation or quarantine to municipal and district directors of public health, while concurrently retaining such authority.

Orders regarding additional measures to protect public health and safety and ensure the state's civil preparedness will follow as I determine to be necessary.

I am filing this declaration with you under my hand and seal on this 26th day of January, 2021.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ned Lamont".

Ned Lamont
Governor