

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13E

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC –
TEMPORARY NURSE AIDE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on several occasions since March 10, 2020, acting within my authority pursuant to Sections 19a-131 and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes as well as Special Acts 21-2, 21-4, and 21-5 of the General Assembly, and in response to the continued need to respond adequately to the COVID-19 pandemic, I renewed the declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies; 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; 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 Delta variant of COVID-19 is highly contagious and spreads more easily and quickly than other COVID-19 variants; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), the number of COVID-19 cases associated with the Delta variant and the overall rate of infection and hospitalization has increased significantly in Connecticut, such that the CDC considers transmission to be high in multiple Connecticut counties; 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, responding to and treating outbreaks of COVID-19 consumes priority healthcare and emergency management resources including personnel, hospital beds, and personal protective

equipment, jeopardizing the efficient operation of the statewide healthcare infrastructure and thereby endangering public health and safety and civil preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the certified nurse aide workforce has decreased by 15 percent since August of 2019; and

WHEREAS, during a critical period of the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to the previously described emergency declarations, I authorized the creation of a program to hire and train temporary nurse aides to provide services and alleviate staffing shortfalls in certain congregate care facilities; and

WHEREAS, that program was successful in providing critically needed healthcare services and addressing statewide healthcare resource constraints, while also demonstrating the potential of an additional workforce development pipeline into traditional licensed healthcare professions; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to affect the availability of the required clinical experiences for healthcare students, including, but not limited to, nurse aide students; and

WHEREAS, the healthcare continuum is experiencing challenges in both access to and absenteeism in the workforce associated with the increased incidence of COVID 19; and

WHEREAS, because of the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a significant need to expand the healthcare workforce in Connecticut, especially related to care of patients in congregate settings; and

WHEREAS, such expansion would be enhanced by modification of certain licensing statutes and registration statutes that, without being modified, would prohibit the provision of care by trained but unlicensed providers who are available to perform limited but necessary healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic;

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. Temporary Nurse Aide Defined.** Section 20-102aa of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to include a definition of “temporary nurse aide,” which shall mean an individual providing nursing or nursing-related services to residents in a chronic and convalescent nursing home or rest home with nursing supervision, having eight hours of on-line training without enhanced infection control skills and ineligible to work with COVID-19 positive patients, in accordance with and under the direction of a licensed nurse, but does not include an individual who is a health professional otherwise licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health, or who volunteers to provide such services without monetary compensation.
- 2. Commissioner to Grant Registration of a Temporary Nurse Aide.** Section 20-

102ee of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to authorize the Commissioner of Public Health to grant a registration as a temporary nurse aide to any individual that the Commissioner determines complies with the policies adopted pursuant to this order. The Commissioner may adopt, amend, implement, suspend and revoke training, competency, scope of practice and temporary hiring policies concerning temporary nurse aides, which shall not be subject to the requirements of sections 4-168 to 4-174, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes. An institution hiring a temporary nurse aide shall comply with such policies adopted by the Commissioner.

- 3. Restrictions on Temporary Nurse Aides.** Section 20-102ff of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to preclude temporary nurse aides from engaging in any activity for which a license is required pursuant to Chapter 378 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

This order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect through September 30, 2021 unless earlier modified or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 3rd day of September, 2021.



Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

