GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner / Brian Kemp, Governor

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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EIGHTH AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES[1]

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian P. Kemp issued Executive Order 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia due to the impact of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Georgia General Assembly concurred with Executive Order 03.14.20.01 by joint resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health State of Emergency has been extended as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") recommends that all states and territories implement aggressive measures to slow and contain transmission of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases of COVID-19 in the state of Georgia continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents a severe threat to public health in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease that is transmitted primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, although the vast majority of Georgians are complying with public health recommendations and guidance for the isolation of persons with symptoms of COVID-19, I have received reliable reports that a small number of persons may be behaving in a way that contributes to the spread of this disease in the community; and

WHEREAS, I have determined that it is necessary and appropriate to require persons who:

- have received a positive lab-confirmed test for COVID-19, or
- are suspected to have COVID-19 based on symptoms recognized by the CDC, or
- have been in close contact with a person with known or suspected COVID-19

[1] This Eighth Amended Administrative Order amends and supersedes all prior "Administrative Orders for Public Health Control Measures" in connection with COVID-19.

to isolate or quarantine themselves at home, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, reduce the number of people who will become infected, and avoid unnecessary strain on Georgia's healthcare system.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-4(4) and 31-12-4, Chapter 511-9-1 of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Public Health ("Department"), and Governor Kemp's Executive Orders,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

Isolation of Persons With Known or Suspected COVID-19

1. *Persons With Known COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or clinical laboratory of a positive laboratory-confirmed test for COVID-19, the person testing positive for COVID-19 shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.

2. *Persons With Suspected COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider or public health official that COVID-19 infection is diagnosed or suspected based on symptoms, the person with suspected COVID-19 infection shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department. As of the date of this Order, the CDC recognizes the following symptoms of COVID-19 infection: fever (a measured temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or a feeling of feverishness), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

3. Each isolated person shall avoid unnecessary physical contact with any and all persons and shall comply fully with the Isolation Protocol attached to this Order, as it may be updated from time to time.

4. Each isolated person shall remain in isolation until such time as he or she no longer presents a risk of infection to the public, as determined by the Isolation Protocol then in effect. As of the date of this Administrative Order, the Isolation Protocol requires an isolated person to remain in isolation as follows:

(1*) If the person had a mild or moderate case of COVID-19*[2] *and is are not severely immunocompromised*, then isolation may be discontinued when at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and at least 24 hours have passed since the last fever without the use of fever-reducing drugs, and symptoms have improved (*e.g.*, cough, shortness of breath.)

(2) *If the person had a severe or critical case of COVID-19*[3]*or is severely immunocompromised*, then isolation may be discontinued when at least 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and at least 24 hours have passed since the last fever without the use of fever-reducing drugs, and symptoms have improved (*e.g.*, cough, shortness of breath.)

(3) *If the person was diagnosed with COVID-19 but never developed any symptoms (i.e., asymptomatic)*, then

(i) *If the person is not severely immunocompromised*, isolation may be discontinued when at least ten days have passed since the positive laboratory test and there are still no symptoms.

(ii) *If the person is severely immunocompromised*, isolation may be discontinued when at least twenty days have passed since the positive laboratory test and there are still no symptoms.

5. Isolated persons should monitor their symptoms and seek prompt medical attention if the symptoms get worse, as instructed in the Isolation Protocol.

6. Isolated persons may leave isolation in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person's health condition worsens and he or she requires treatment in a healthcare facility.

7. Each isolated person shall cooperate with state and local public health personnel by answering questions as necessary to identify and locate those persons with whom the isolated person has been in close contact (within six feet for fifteen minutes or more) beginning two days before symptoms began or, for isolated persons who have experienced no symptoms of COVID-19, beginning two days

[2] A "mild case of COVID-19" means the person had any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, malaise, headache, muscle pain) without shortness of breath, dyspnea, or abnormal chest imaging. A "moderate case of COVID-19" means the person had evidence of lower respiratory disease, or oxygen saturation was abnormally low.

[3] A "severe case of COVID-19" means the person's respiratory frequency and arterial partial pressure of oxygen to fraction of inspired oxygen were abnormally low. A "critical case of COVID-19" means the person was hospitalized for shortness of breath, pneumonia, low oxygen levels, respiratory failure, septic shock, or multiple organ failure.

before the test was completed. If requested by public health personnel, the isolated person shall provide a list of the locations visited by the isolated person during the time frame that he or she may have been able to transmit the disease.

Quarantine of Persons Exposed To COVID-19

8. *Persons With COVID-19 Exposure Likely to Result in Infection.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or isolated person of exposure to COVID-19 based on close contact (within six feet for fifteen minutes or more) with a person who must be isolated as provided herein, the person so exposed shall immediately quarantine himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.

9. Each isolated person shall avoid unnecessary physical contact with any and all persons and shall comply fully with the Quarantine Protocol attached to this Order, as it may be updated from time to time.

10. Each quarantined person shall remain at home or in the approved quarantine location for a period of fourteen days from the person's last known exposure to COVID-19.

11. Quarantined persons may leave quarantine in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person's health condition worsens and he or she requires treatment in a healthcare facility.

12. Health care providers, emergency medical services workers, first responders, and other critical infrastructure workers may continue to work, in consultation with their workplace occupational health program and if necessary to ensure adequate staffing, so long as they are asymptomatic, don masks while on duty, and comply with all other quarantine requirements for the duration of the fourteen day period.

13. During the period of quarantine, the quarantined person shall take his or her temperature twice per day and monitor any symptoms of respiratory illness. If at any time the quarantined person experiences symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (a measured temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or a feeling of feverishness), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell, the quarantined person shall be considered a person with suspected COVID-19 and shall follow the requirements for isolation set forth above.

Staff members of the Department are available at **866-PUB-HLTH (866-782-4584)** to provide assistance and counseling to persons subject to this Administrative Order concerning their illness or exposure and their compliance with this Order. During the period of isolation or quarantine, the ability of persons subject to this Order to communicate with others outside the isolation or quarantine site, including their ability to exchange confidential communications with legal and medical advisors of their own choosing, will be preserved and facilitated to the extent possible without jeopardizing the integrity of the isolation or quarantine.

Failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor offense pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-5-8. If the Department has reasonable grounds to believe that a person subject to quarantine or isolation refuses to comply with the requirements of this Order, the Department may provide information to law enforcement as necessary to ensure compliance and to facilitate criminal prosecution.

Further, any person who refuses to isolate or quarantine himself or herself as required by this Order may be subject to such further action as may be necessary to protect the public's health.

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect for thirty days following the end of the Public Health State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 03.14.20.01 and as extended thereafter.

SO ORDERED, this 28th day of July 2020.

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
State Health Officer

Attachment:
Georgia Department of Public Health Isolation Protocol
Georgia Department of Public Health Quarantine Protocol