STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation

WHEREAS, since early March 2020, Illinois has been faced with a disaster caused by a pandemic that has taken the lives of thousands of residents, infecting over 100,000 and growing, resulting in extraordinary sickness and loss of life; and,

WHEREAS, at all times but especially during a public health crisis, protecting the health and safety of Illinoisans is among the most important functions of State government; and,

WHEREAS, it is critical that Illinoisans who become sick are able to be treated by medical professionals, including when a hospital bed, emergency room bed, or ventilator is needed; and,

WHEREAS, it is also critical that the State's health care and first responder workforce has adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) to safely treat patients, respond to public health disasters, and prevent the spread of communicable diseases; and,

WHEREAS, as Illinois enters the fourth month of responding to the public health disaster caused by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), a novel severe acute respiratory illness that has spread and continues to spread rapidly among people through respiratory transmissions and that continues to be without an effective treatment or vaccine, the burden on residents, healthcare providers, first responders, and governments throughout the State is unprecedented; and,

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic, and has now reported more than 5.5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 350,000 deaths attributable to COVID-19 globally; and,

WHEREAS, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the World Health Organization and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicated that the virus was expected to continue spreading and it has, in fact, continued to spread rapidly, resulting in the need for federal and State governments to take significant steps; and,

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area in response to the outbreak of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"), covering all states and territories, including Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the President declared a major disaster in Illinois pursuant to Section 401 of the Stafford Act; and,

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, due to the exponential spread of COVID-19 in Illinois, I again declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area; and,

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2020, due to the continued spread of COVID-19 in Illinois, the threatened shortages of hospital beds, ER beds, and ventilators, and the inadequate testing capacity, I again declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area; and,

WHEREAS, as circumstances surrounding COVID-19 rapidly evolve and new evidence emerges, there have been frequent changes in information and public health guidance; and,

WHEREAS, the unprecedented nature of COVID-19, including the variety of health effects it has on not just the respiratory system but the heart, brain, kidneys, and the body's immune response, has made the virus's effects and its path difficult to predict; and,

WHEREAS, from the outset, data suggested that older adults and those with serious underlying health conditions are more likely to experience severe and sometimes fatal complications from COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, emerging evidence has shown that young people, including infants and toddlers, are also at risk of such complications; and,

WHEREAS, young and middle-aged people have comprised a significant proportion of hospitalized COVID-19 patients, and there is evidence that COVID-19 causes blood clots and strokes, and has caused deadly strokes in young and middle-aged people who exhibited few symptoms; and,

WHEREAS, the understanding of spread from infected individuals who have not shown symptoms has changed and, on April 12, 2020, the CDC changed the period of exposure risk from "onset of symptoms" to "48 hours before symptom onset"; and,

WHEREAS, some people infected by the virus remain asymptomatic but nonetheless may spread it to others; and,

WHEREAS, although the CDC initially recommended against wearing cloth face coverings or masks as protection, as a result of emerging research on asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, the CDC has revised its conclusions and recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain; and,

WHEREAS, as COVID-19 has spread in Illinois over the course of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamations, the circumstances causing a disaster throughout the State have changed and continue to change, making definitive predictions of the course the virus will take over the coming months extremely difficult; and,

WHEREAS, at the time I issued the first Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, there were 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in one Illinois county; and,

WHEREAS, as of today, May 29, 2020, there have been over 115,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in 100 Illinois counties; and,

WHEREAS, the first death attributed to COVID-19 in Illinois was announced on March 17, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, as of today, May 29, 2020, Illinois has had more than 5,180 deaths resulting from COVID-19, and many days, more than 100 Illinoisans lose their lives to the virus; and,

WHEREAS, studies suggest that for every confirmed case there are many more unknown cases, some of which are asymptomatic individuals who can pass the virus to others without knowing; and,

WHEREAS, although the number of new COVID-19 cases has stabilized and potentially begun to decrease in recent weeks, the virus continues to infect thousands of individuals and claim the lives of too many Illinoisans each day; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has claimed the lives of and continues to impact the health of Black and Hispanic Illinoisans at a disproportionately high rate – magnifying significant health disparities and inequities; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health activated its Illinois Emergency Operations Plan and its Emergency Support Function 8 Plan to coordinate emergency response efforts by hospitals, local health departments, and emergency management systems in order to avoid a surge in the use of hospital resources and capacity; and,

WHEREAS, as the virus has progressed through Illinois, the crisis facing the State continues to develop and requires an evolving response to ensure hospitals, health care professionals and first responders are able to meet the health care needs of all Illinoisans and in a manner consistent with CDC guidance that continues to be updated; and,

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that health care professionals, first responders, hospitals and other facilities are able to meet the health care needs of all residents of Illinois, the State must have critical supplies, including PPE, such as masks, face shields, gowns, and gloves; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois maintains a stockpile that supports the existing PPE supply chains and stocks at various healthcare facilities; and,

WHEREAS, while the State is making every effort to procure additional PPE, if those procurement efforts are disrupted or Illinois experiences a surge in COVID-19 cases, the State faces a life-threatening shortage of respirators, masks, protective eyewear, face shields, gloves, gowns, and other protective equipment for health care workers and first responders; and,

WHEREAS, while hospitalizations have very recently stabilized, Illinois is using a significant percentage of hospital beds, ICU beds, and ventilators to treat COVID-19 patients that require hospitalization and, if cases were to surge higher, the State could face a shortage of one or more of these critical health care resources; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois currently has a total of 33,662 hospital beds with 3,749 ICU beds, of which, only 34% of hospital beds and 34% of ICU beds currently are available statewide; and,

WHEREAS, the State worked with top researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Northwestern School of Medicine, the University of Chicago, the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, along with McKinsey and Mier Consulting Group, and Civis Analytics, to analyze daily data on COVID-19 deaths and ICU usage and model potential outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, the State's modeling showed that its health care resource utilization would peak in May, and that health care resources would continue to be limited after the peak; and updated modeling now shows that the peak may have been delayed, with the tail extending several more weeks; and,

WHEREAS, the State's modeling continues to show that without extensive social distancing and other precautions, the State will face a shortage of hospital beds, ICU beds and/or ventilators; and,

WHEREAS, the epidemiology concept of R_0 (R-naught) – which represents the number of cases, on average, an infected person will cause during their infectious period – is an important measure of progress in combatting a virus like COVID-19, and that an Ro of below 1 is a critical milestone because it suggests that the disease is declining rather than spreading; and,

WHEREAS, the State's estimated effective R_0 was approximately 3.5 at the beginning of the outbreak, but the number has improved to approximately 1.13 based on the State's emergency measures, including, most importantly, the "stay at home" order; and,

WHEREAS, hospital beds, ICU beds, and ventilators are needed not for just patients with COVID-19, but also for any number of additional illnesses and injuries; and,

WHEREAS, fewer Illinoisans have sought non-COVID-19 related medical care and emergency care in recent weeks and it is critical for public health that Illinoisans are able to and willing to seek non-COVID-19 related medical care and emergency care; and,

WHEREAS, Illinoisans will be able to and willing to seek non-COVID-19 related medical care and emergency care if there are sufficient hospital beds, ventilators, and if medical personnel are able to protect themselves with PPE; and,

WHEREAS, over the course of the COVID-19 crisis, the State has been constrained in the number of COVID-19 tests that can be taken and processed due to a limited number of testing sites and labs, as well as a shortage of necessary supplies, including the swabs needed to take samples; and,

WHEREAS, at the time I issued the first Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, Illinois had capacity to test no more than a few hundred people per day for COVID-19 at a small number of testing sites; and,

WHEREAS, the State has developed testing sites throughout Illinois and now routinely exceeds 20,000 COVID-19 tests per day, and testing capacity continues to increase; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois now has tested over 829,000 total specimens for COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, national projections adjusted for Illinois' population suggest the State must continue to increase the number of tests processed per day as part of an effective effort to permanently slow and reduce the spread of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to causing the tragic loss of 5,186 Illinoisans and wreaking havoc on the physical health of tens of thousands more, COVID-19 has caused extensive economic loss and continues to threaten the financial welfare of a significant number of individuals and businesses across the nation and the State; and,

WHEREAS, nationwide, 40 million people have filed unemployment claims since the start of the pandemic – representing one in four U.S. workers; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Employment Security announced that the State's unemployment rate rose to 16.4% in April, with 762,000 jobs lost during that month; and,

WHEREAS, over 180,000 small businesses in Illinois have received over $22 billion in COVID-19 related financial support through the federal Paycheck Protection Program in an effort to prevent these businesses from closing; and,

WHEREAS, the economic loss and insecurity caused by COVID-19 threatens the viability of business and the access to housing, medical care, food, and other critical resources that impact the health and safety of residents; and,

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing facts, and considering the expected continuing spread of COVID-19 and the resulting health and economic impacts that will be felt over the coming month by people across the State, the current circumstances in Illinois surrounding the spread of COVID-19 constitute an epidemic emergency and a public health emergency under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and,

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the continuing burden on hospital resources, the potential shortages of these resources in the event of a surge in infections, and the critical need to increase the purchase and distribution of PPE as well as to expand COVID-19 testing capacity constitute a public health emergency under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and,

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Illinois that the State will be prepared to address any disasters and, therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional State resources available to ensure that that our healthcare delivery system is capable of serving those who are sick and that Illinoisans remain safe and secure and able to obtain medical care; and,

WHEREAS, this proclamation will assist the State in facilitating economic recovery for individuals and businesses in an effort to prevent further devastating consequences from economic instability; and,

WHEREAS, this proclamation will assist Illinois agencies in coordinating State and Federal resources, including materials needed to test for COVID-19, personal protective equipment, and medicines, in an effort to support the State responses as well as the responses of local governments to the present public health emergency; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions provide legal justification under Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act for the new issuance of a proclamation of disaster; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution, in Article V, Section 8, provides that "the Governor shall have the supreme executive power, and shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws," and states, in the Preamble, that a central purpose of the Illinois Constitution is "provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people";

NOW, THEREFORE, in the interest of aiding the people of Illinois and the local governments responsible for ensuring public health and safety, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, hereby proclaim as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, I find that a disaster exists within the State of Illinois and specifically declare all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area. The proclamation authorizes the exercise of all of the emergency powers provided in Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, including but not limited to those specific emergency powers set forth below.

Section 2. The Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency are directed to coordinate with each other with respect to planning for and responding to the present public health emergency.

Section 3. The Illinois Department of Public Health is further directed to cooperate with the Governor, other State agencies and local authorities, including local public health authorities, in the development and implementation of strategies and plans to protect the public health in connection with the present public health emergency.

Section 4. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is directed to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan to coordinate State resources to support local governments in disaster response and recovery operations.

Section 5. To aid with emergency purchases necessary for response and other emergency powers as authorized by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, the provisions of the Illinois Procurement Code that would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster are suspended to the extent they are not required by federal law. If necessary, and in accordance with Section 7(1) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7(1), the Governor may take appropriate executive action to suspend additional statutes, orders, rules, and regulations.

Section 6. Pursuant to Section 7(3) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7(3), this proclamation activates the Governor's authority, as necessary, to transfer the direction, personnel or functions of State departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency response programs.

Section 7. The Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Insurance and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services are directed to recommend, and, as appropriate, take necessary actions to ensure expanded access to testing for COVID-19 and that consumers do not face financial barriers in accessing diagnostic testing and treatment services for COVID-19.

Section 8. The Illinois State Board of Education is directed to recommend, and, as appropriate, take necessary actions to address any impact to learning associated with the present public health

emergency and to alleviate any barriers to the use of remote learning during the effect of this proclamation that exist in the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/1-1 et. seq.

Section 9. All State agencies are directed to cooperate with the Governor, other State agencies and local authorities in the development and implementation of strategies and plans to cope with and recover from the economic impact of the present public health emergency.

Section 10. Pursuant to Section 7(14) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7(14), increases in the selling price of goods or services, including medical supplies, protective equipment, medications and other commodities intended to assist in the prevention of or treatment and recovery of COVID-19, shall be prohibited in the State of Illinois while this proclamation is in effect.

Section 11. This proclamation can facilitate requests for federal emergency and/or disaster assistance if a complete and comprehensive assessment of damage indicates that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments.

Section 12. For purposes of Senate Bill 2135 (101st General Assembly), Article 15, section 15-5, amending the Open Meetings Act, new section 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(4), I find that the public health concerns at issue in this proclamation render in-person attendance of more than ten people at the regular meeting location not feasible.

Section 13. This proclamation shall be effective immediately and remain in effect for 30 days.

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield this 29th day of May in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty, and of the State of Illinois two hundred and second.

Jesse White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JBPritzker
GOVERNOR