

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY**

**NED LAMONT**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12C**

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

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, I declared 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 September 1, 2020, I renewed the March 10, 2020 declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies remained in effect until February 9, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 26, 2021, I renewed the March 10, 2020 and September 1, 2020 declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall run concurrently and remain in effect until April 20, 2021; 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**, 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**, on April 19, 2021, I renewed the March 10, 2020, September 1, 2020 and January 26, 2021 declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall run concurrently and remain in effect until through May 20, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 2021, I signed into law House Bill 6686, through which the General Assembly endorsed a renewal and extension 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 18, 2021, I renewed the March 10, 2020, September 1, 2020, January 26, 2021 and April 19, 2021, declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall run concurrently and remain in effect until through July 20, 2021; 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 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**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many children who are eligible for Birth-to-Three intervention services have had much more limited access to in-person services critical to their development because of the safety restrictions imposed since March 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, many children who receive Birth-to-Three services will lose eligibility when they turn three years old but later become eligible for services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act once they start school later this year; and

**WHEREAS**, the statutory eligibility limit of three years old interferes with such children’s recovery from any learning loss caused by pandemic-related isolation; and

**WHEREAS**, my administration has identified federal and state funding to provide continuity of services for such children;

**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. Modification of Thirty-Six Month Age Limit for Birth-to-Three Services.** Executive Order No. 12B, Section 12, is repealed. Effective immediately, (a) Section 17a-248 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and any associated regulations, rules, and policies are modified to authorize the Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood to temporarily

expand the definition of “eligible children” to include children who turn three years old, who are presently engaged in early intervention services, and are either eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B or whose eligibility is pending determination. The Commissioner may issue any order deemed necessary to implement this order.

(b) Sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a of the Connecticut General Statutes, and any associated regulations, rules, and policies are modified to require that the individual and group health insurance policies referenced in such sections shall continue to provide coverage for medically necessary remote early intervention services by qualified personnel after a covered child’s third birthday when such child continues to receive such services in accordance with subsection (a) of this order.

This order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect through July 20, 2021 unless earlier modified or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.



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Ned Lamont  
Governor

By His Excellency’s Command



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Denise W. Merrill  
Secretary of the State

