

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 271

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order No. 103, declaring the existence of a Public Health Emergency, pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act ("EHPA"), N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq., and a State of Emergency, pursuant to the New Jersey Civilian Defense and Disaster Control Act ("Disaster Control Act"), N.J.S.A. App A:9-33 et seq., in the State of New Jersey for Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, through Executive Order Nos. 119, 138, 151, 162, 171, 180, 186, 191, 200, 210, 215, 222, 231, 235, and 240, issued on April 7, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 4, 2020, July 2, 2020, August 1, 2020, August 27, 2020, September 25, 2020, October 24, 2020, November 22, 2020, December 21, 2020, January 19, 2021, February 17, 2021, March 17, 2021, April 15, 2021, and May 14, 2021, respectively, the facts and circumstances of which are adopted by reference herein, I declared that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency continued to exist and declared that all Executive Orders and Administrative Orders adopted in whole or in part in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency remained in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34 and -51, I reserve the right to utilize and employ all available resources of State government to protect against the emergency created by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as COVID-19 continued to spread across New Jersey, I have issued a series of Executive Orders pursuant to my authority under the EHPA and the Disaster Control Act, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare against the emergency created by COVID-19, including Executive Order Nos. 104-133, Nos. 135-138, Nos. 140-166, Nos. 168-173, No. 175, Nos. 177-181, No. 183, Nos. 186-187, Nos. 189- 198, No. 200, Nos. 203-204, No. 207, and

Nos. 210-211 (2020) and Nos. 214-216, Nos. 219-220, Nos. 222-223, No. 225, Nos. 228-235, Nos. 237-244, No. 246, No. 249, Nos. 251-253, Nos. 263-264, and Nos. 266-267 (2021), the facts and circumstances of which are all adopted by reference herein; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, I signed Assembly Bill No. 5820 into law as P.L.2021, c.103 and issued Executive Order No. 244, which terminated the Public Health Emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020) but maintained the State of Emergency declared in that same Order; and

WHEREAS, P.L.2021, c.103 provided that following the termination of the Public Health Emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020), the Governor, Department of Health ("DOH") Commissioner (the "Commissioner"), and the head of any other State agency may continue to issue orders related to implementation of recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") to prevent or limit the transmission of COVID-19 and related to vaccine distribution, administration, and management, COVID-19 testing, and data collection; and

WHEREAS, parties that contract with the State government provide essential services to the public and interact with the public on a regular basis, and because of the nature of their work, a significant portion of their workers are not able to work remotely; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of the government workforce during this overall escalation in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths resulting from the B.1.617.2 ("Delta") variant is essential for continued operation and service to the public, and it is fitting and proper to require additional protections to the State workforce and public by requiring contractors to provide their vaccination or testing status as a

condition of entry onto State property and into State facilities, including property and facilities leased by a contractor; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has reported that new variants of COVID-19 have been identified in the United States, and that certain variants, particularly the Delta variant, are more transmissible than previous strains; and

WHEREAS, the State has experienced significant overall upticks in critical COVID-19 metrics since July of this year, including COVID-19 positive cases, the rate of transmission, spot positivity, and new hospitalizations, that warrant additional precautions in certain settings, especially those with a substantial number of unvaccinated individuals; and

WHEREAS, while over 5.7 million people in the State have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, additional steps are necessary to ensure continued vaccinations of individuals in certain settings of concern to protect against the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel issued an opinion concluding that Section 564 of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3 does not prohibit public or private entities from imposing vaccination requirements while vaccinations are only available pursuant to Emergency Use Authorization ("EUA"); and

WHEREAS, ensuring that parties that contract with the State government provide adequate COVID-19 safeguards to their workers performing on or in connection with a State government contract will decrease worker absence, reduce labor costs, and improve the efficiency of contractors and subcontractors at sites where they are performing work for the State; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has emphasized that COVID-19 vaccines are effective, in that they can prevent individuals from getting and spreading the virus, and can prevent severe illness in individuals who do contract COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, this Order is related to vaccination management, COVID-19 testing, data collection, and the implementation of CDC recommendations, and is thus authorized under P.L.2021, c.103;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. Each executive department and agency, including an independent authority, shall, to the extent permitted by law, ensure that contracts or agreements entered into by the executive department or agency include a clause that the contractor or any subcontractors, at any tier, that is party to the contract ("covered contractor(s)") must maintain a policy that requires all covered workers to either provide adequate proof to the covered contractor that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times weekly. This clause shall also be required to be incorporated into lower-tier subcontracts. Any covered worker subject to a policy maintained pursuant to this paragraph that has not provided adequate proof that the covered worker is fully vaccinated must submit to a minimum of weekly or twice weekly testing on an ongoing basis until fully vaccinated.

2. This Order shall apply to any new contract, new solicitation for a contract, extension or renewal of an existing contract, and exercise of an option on an existing contract, if it is a contract for services, construction, including demolition,

remediation, removal of hazardous substances, alteration, custom fabrication, repair work, or maintenance work, or a leasehold interest in real property through which covered workers have access to State property, and the cost or contract price thereof is to be paid, in whole or in part, with or out of executive department or agency funds. This Order shall not apply to financial assistance, including but not limited to grants, bonds, loans, or tax credits; contracts or subcontracts whose value is less than the State bid advertising threshold under N.J.S.A. 52:34-7; employees who perform work outside of the State; or contracts solely for the provision of goods.

3. Covered workers may demonstrate proof of full vaccination status by presenting the following documents to the covered contractor if they list COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for EUA in the United States and/or the World Health Organization ("WHO"), along with an administration date for each dose:

- a. The CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Card issued to the vaccine recipient by the vaccination site, or an electronic or physical copy of the same;
- b. Official record from the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS) or other State immunization registry;
- c. A record from a health care provider's portal/medical record system on official letterhead signed by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, registered nurse or pharmacist;
- d. A military immunization or health record from the United States Armed Forces; or

- e. Docket mobile phone application record or any state specific application that produces a digital health record.

Covered contractors collecting vaccination information from covered workers must comport with all federal and State laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, that regulate the collection and storage of that information.

4. To satisfy the testing requirement, a covered worker must undergo screening testing at minimum one to two times weekly. Where a covered contractor requires an unvaccinated covered worker to submit proof of a COVID-19 test, the worker may choose either antigen or molecular tests that have EUA by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") or are operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Where a covered contractor provides the unvaccinated covered worker with on-site access to COVID-19 tests, the covered contractor may similarly elect to administer or provide access to either an antigen or molecular test. If the covered worker is not working on-site during a week where testing would otherwise be required, the covered contractor's policy need not require the worker to submit to testing for that week. This requirement shall not supplant any requirement imposed by the covered contractor regarding diagnostic testing of symptomatic workers or screening testing of vaccinated workers.

5. Covered contractors must have a policy for tracking test results from testing required by this Order and must report results to local public health departments.

6. An executive department or agency shall require bidders for contracts subject to this Order to certify at the time of bid or proposal or prior to executing a contract that the bidder, if

awarded a contract, shall comply with this Order by having the policies and practices required by this Order in place, and shall collect all data necessary for compliance with this Order. Covered contractors shall certify, at the time of submission of an invoice, that they have complied with this Order during the period of time covered by the invoice.

7. For purposes of this Order, "covered worker" means any full-time or part-time worker for a covered contractor working on or in connection with a contract with an executive department or agency that requires such worker to enter, work at, or provide services in any place, site, installation, building, room, or facility in which any executive department or agency conducts official business or is within an executive department or agency's jurisdiction, custody, or control, or that relates to offering services for State employees, their dependents, or the general public.

8. For purposes of this Order, a covered worker shall be considered "fully vaccinated" for COVID-19 two weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine. Individuals will only be considered fully vaccinated where they have received a COVID-19 vaccine that is currently authorized for emergency use by the FDA or the WHO, or that are approved for use by the same. Workers who are not fully vaccinated, or for whom vaccination status is unknown or who have not provided sufficient proof of documentation, shall be considered unvaccinated for purposes of this Order.

9. Nothing in this Order shall prevent a covered contractor from instituting a vaccination or testing policy that includes additional or stricter requirements, so long as such policy

comports with the minimum requirements of this Order. A covered contractor may also maintain a policy that requires more frequent testing of covered workers.

10. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to issue a directive supplementing the requirements outlined in this Order, which may include, but not be limited to, any requirements for reporting vaccination and testing data to the DOH. Actions taken by the Commissioner pursuant to this Order shall not be subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq.

11. The State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of State Police, shall have the discretion to make additions, amendments, clarifications, exceptions, and exclusions to the terms of this Order.

12. It shall be the duty of every person or entity in this State or doing business in this State and of the members of the governing body and every official, employee, or agent of every political subdivision in this State and of each member of all other governmental bodies, agencies, and authorities in this State of any nature whatsoever, to cooperate fully in all matters concerning this Order, and to cooperate fully with any Administrative Orders issued pursuant to this Order.

13. No municipality, county, or any other agency or political subdivision of this State shall enact or enforce any order, rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution which will or might in any way conflict with any of the provisions of this Order, or which will or might in any way interfere with or impede its achievement.

14. Penalties for violations of this Order may be imposed under, among other statutes, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-49 and -50.

15. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until revoked or modified by the Governor.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
20th day of October,
Two Thousand and Twenty, and
of the Independence of the
United States, the Two
Hundred and Forty-Sixth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor