

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2019-31

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2019, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2019-26, declaring a State of Emergency due to the significant threat posed by Hurricane Dorian and activating the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in the threatened areas; and

WHEREAS, upon consultation with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (“EMD”), as well as the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (“DHEC”), the undersigned determined that the evacuation of healthcare facilities and persons in specified Evacuation Zones in Jasper County, Beaufort County, Colleton County, Charleston County, Dorchester County, Berkeley County, Georgetown County, and Horry County was necessary for the preservation of life and that, due to timing and logistical concerns, the mandatory medical evacuation should begin prior to any general population evacuation; and

WHEREAS, for the foregoing reasons and in accordance with section 25-1-440 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, other applicable law, and DHEC’s Mandatory Medical Evacuation Protocols, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2019-27 on September 1, 2019, ordering a mandatory medical evacuation, effective immediately, of all healthcare facilities licensed by DHEC and located in the following Evacuation Zones: Jasper (Zone A), Beaufort (Zone A), Colleton (Zones A and B), Charleston (Zones A, B, and C), Dorchester (Zone D), Berkeley (Zones B and G), Georgetown (Zone A), and Horry (Zone A); and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the issuance of Executive Order No. 2019-27, and for the aforementioned reasons and pursuant to the cited authority and other applicable law, on September 1, 2019, the undersigned also issued Executive Order No. 2019-28, ordering the evacuation, effective at noon, September 2, 2019, of all persons located in the above-referenced Evacuation Zones, with the exception of those critical or emergency response personnel, as designated by the appropriate municipal, county, or special purpose district officials, deemed

necessary to provide essential services during or immediately following the impact of Hurricane Dorian; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the foregoing, upon consultation with EMD and other state and local agencies and officials, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2019-29, ordering the closure of state government offices and public schools in the counties subject to, or including certain areas subject to, evacuation in accordance with Executive Order No. 2019-28; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2019, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2019-30, rescinding the mandatory medical evacuation and general population evacuation orders for the above-referenced Evacuation Zones in Beaufort County, Jasper County, and Colleton County, as well as the order closing state government offices and public schools in said counties, and modifying and amending the corresponding provisions of Executive Order No. 2019-27, Executive Order No. 2019-28, and Executive Order No. 2019-29; and

WHEREAS, DHEC has since advised that Hurricane Dorian no longer poses an imminent threat to the life, health, safety, or welfare of residents and patients of healthcare facilities in the specified Evacuation Zones in Charleston County, Dorchester County, Berkeley County, Georgetown County, and Horry County; and

WHEREAS, after consulting with state and local officials and carefully considering other relevant information regarding Hurricane Dorian's impact and related recovery efforts, the undersigned has determined that it is appropriate based on current conditions for county authorities to make decisions about access to previously evacuated areas in Charleston County, Dorchester County, Berkeley County, Georgetown County, and Horry County, and that it is also appropriate for school districts in the aforementioned counties to make any necessary decisions about public school closures.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1. I hereby rescind the mandatory medical evacuation order for all healthcare facilities licensed by DHEC and located in the following Evacuation Zones: Charleston County (Zones A, B, and C), Dorchester County (Zone D), Berkeley County (Zones B and G), Georgetown County (Zone A), and Horry County (Zone A), effective at 10:00 a.m. on September 6, 2019.

Section 2. I hereby rescind the general population evacuation order for the following Evacuation Zones: Charleston County (Zones A, B, and C), Dorchester County (Zone D), Berkeley County (Zones B and G), Georgetown County (Zone A), and Horry County (Zone A); effective at 10:00 a.m. on September 6, 2019.

Section 3. I hereby rescind the order closing state government offices and public schools, to include state-supported colleges, universities, and technical colleges, in the following counties: Charleston County, Dorchester County, Berkeley County, Georgetown County, and Horry County, effective at 10:00 a.m. on September 6, 2019. Accordingly, state government offices in Charleston County, Dorchester County, Berkeley County, Georgetown County, and Horry County shall adhere to normal state procedure, following county government closures for inclement weather or other hazardous conditions, and public schools in the aforementioned counties should adhere to any applicable school district policies or directives in resuming regular activities.

Section 4. In accordance with the foregoing, I hereby rescind the remaining provisions of Executive No. 2019-27, Executive Order No. 2019-28, and Executive Order No. 2019-29, as modified and amended by Executive Order No. 2019-30, effective at 10:00 a.m. on September 6, 2019. Notwithstanding the undersigned's rescission of all previous mandatory medical evacuation orders, general population evacuation orders, and orders directing the closure of state government offices and public schools in connection with Hurricane Dorian, nothing in this Order shall prohibit local officials from establishing a curfew or restricting access to areas of danger to protect, provide for, and ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the general population and of healthcare facility patients, residents, and visitors. Accordingly, to the extent necessary, I hereby authorize state officials to assist in enforcing any applicable local curfews or restrictions to help protect, provide for, and ensure the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors in the affected areas. All residents and visitors remaining in or returning to the foregoing areas should continue to monitor weather forecasts and conditions and exercise due caution to travel safely across roads and bridges and should understand that portions of these areas may be without power or access to essential services for an extended period of time.

This Order is effective immediately. Further proclamations, orders, and directives deemed necessary to ensure the fullest possible protection of life and property during this State of Emergency shall be issued verbally by the undersigned and thereafter reduced to writing and published for dissemination within the succeeding 24-hour period.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 6th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2019.**

HENRY MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

Executive Order No. 2019-31

Page 4

September 6, 2019

MARK HAMMOND

Secretary of State