

Executive Order No. 2018-34

Rescission of Mandatory Medical and General Population Evacuation for Berkeley County, Charleston County, Dorchester County, and Edisto Beach

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2018, the undersigned issued Executive Order 2018-26, declaring a State of Emergency due to the significant threat posed by Hurricane Florence; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, the undersigned issued Executive Order 2018-28, ordering a mandatory medical evacuation, effective at 1:00 p.m. on September 10, 2018, of all healthcare facilities licensed by DHEC located in specified Evacuation Zones in Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry Counties in accordance with DHEC's Mandatory Medical Evacuation Protocols; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, the undersigned issued Executive Order 2018-29, ordering an evacuation, effective at 12:00 p.m. on September 11, 2018, of all persons located in specified Evacuation Zones in Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry Counties, except for critical or emergency response personnel, due to the imminent danger and forecasted track posed by Hurricane Florence; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2018, the undersigned issued Executive Order 2018-31, effective at 12:00 p.m. on September 11, 2018, rescinding the mandatory medical evacuation and general population evacuation orders for all persons located in specified Evacuation Zones in Jasper, Beaufort, and Colleton Counties, with the exception of Edisto Beach, and modifying the corresponding provisions of Executive Order 2018-28 and Executive Order 2018-29.

WHEREAS, Hurricane Florence has been downgraded to a Tropical Storm and, based on reports by the National Weather Service, no longer poses an imminent threat to the life, health, safety, or welfare of persons in Berkeley County, Charleston County, Dorchester County, or Edisto Beach.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as 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 rescind the mandatory medical evacuation and general population evacuation orders for Berkeley County, Charleston County, Dorchester County, and Edisto Beach, effective at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on September 15, 2018. The corresponding provisions of Executive Orders 2018-28, 2018-29, and 2018-31 are hereby modified and amended to correspond with and be consistent with this Order.

FURTHER, this Order does not rescind general population or medical evacuation orders for Georgetown and Horry counties, pursuant to Executive Orders 2018-28 and 2018-29, which will only be rescinded when local officials provide notification that these areas are safe. However, for the health and welfare of the citizens, dialysis centers licensed by DHEC and hospitals that have re-established emergency services pursuant to the re-entry provision in Executive Order 2018-28 are allowed to open in all counties to provide essential, non-elective services regardless of the medical and general evacuation orders in place for that county.

FURTHER, all residents and visitors 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.

Nothing in this Order prohibits local officials from establishing a curfew or restricting access to areas of danger to ensure the welfare and safety 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 ensure the welfare and safety of residents and visitors.

This Order is effective immediately. Further proclamations and directives deemed necessary to ensure the fullest protection of life and property during this State of Emergency shall be issued orally by me and thereafter reduced to writing within the succeeding 24-hour period.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 15th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**