



Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

Lori A. Weaver
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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**AMENDMENT TO THE DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH INCIDENT
TO RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

WHEREAS, since December 1, 2019, there have been over 272 million people worldwide diagnosed with the novel coronavirus disease now known as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, more than 181,000 people known to be infected with the virus that causes this disease have been identified in New Hampshire and more than 1,800 have died; and

WHEREAS, the Department administers programs and supports to the State's most vulnerable citizens and works collaboratively with community and health partners to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, despite the progress that is continuing to be made by the State, COVID-19 continues to be a public health risk. There is now a safe and effective vaccine available to prevent COVID-19 that must be administered to the New Hampshire public to reduce the occurrence of this virus; and

WHEREAS, in order to effectively continue vaccination efforts to eliminate this public health threat, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services needs volunteers to assist in the ongoing efforts, including but not limited to the administration of vaccine in the community;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services wishes to extend liability protections under RSA 21-P and other applicable State laws to volunteers who assist the Department in its ongoing efforts to respond to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, in addition to liability protections, the public health incident allows for the Department of Health and Human Services and the State of New Hampshire to continue to take part in and offer all flexibilities allowable under Federal and State law related to the COVID-19 pandemic that benefit or provide relief to the residents of the state;

THEREFORE, I, Commissioner Lori A. Shibinette, in consultation and with concurrence of His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu, and pursuant to RSA 508:17-a, hereby amends the public health incident declaration made on March 3, 2020 and extends the public health incident that continues to exist throughout New Hampshire for the purposes of responding to COVID-19 effective through March 31, 2022. The Department will take all permissible and necessary actions to address the COVID-

19 pandemic throughout the State of New Hampshire. Further, in addition to my own authority to do so, I hereby authorize Patricia Tilley, Interim Director of the Division of Public Health Services, and Lori Weaver, Associate Commissioner, to designate, in writing, the volunteers authorized to act as agents of the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to RSA 508:17-a, III.



Lori A. Shabinette, Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

12/28/21
Date