



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

January 11, 2021

Dear Licensed Hospital Administrator,

The Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Licensure would like to thank you and your staff for your continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of Licensure is aware of the stress that responding to the current “surge” may be placing on your facility and staff.

The Office of Licensure would like to take this opportunity to bring your attention to some important information regarding the operation of your facility in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note, that in accordance with Rule 41.43.1 of the [Minimum Standards of Operation for Mississippi Hospitals](#) each licensed Mississippi Hospital is required to develop and maintain a written preparedness plan to address emergencies and disasters. This plan must address resources and assets, staffing and clinical activity. The Mississippi State Department of Health has also promulgated [Crisis Standard of Care guidelines](#) to provide background and planning guidance for developing a consistent approach to understanding the circumstances, indicators and triggers that could result in the need to implement altered standards of care.

Additionally, the [Governor’s Emergency proclamation](#) provides that “Health care facilities that have invoked their emergency operation plans in response to this outbreak may implement the ‘alternative standards of care’ plans provided therein, and such are declared to be the state approved standard of care in health care facilities to be executed by health care professionals and allied professions and occupations providing services in response to this outbreak. All healthcare professionals and assisting personnel executing in good faith under the ‘alternative standards of care’ are hereby declared to be ‘Emergency Management Workers’ of the State of Mississippi for the purposes of Miss. Code Ann. Title 41.”

Furthermore, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Mississippi Legislature passed [Senate Bill 3049](#). Section 4(1)(f) of that bill provides immunity for health care professionals and healthcare facilities for the standard of care provided “because of a lack of staffing, facilities, equipment, supplies or other resources attributable to the COVID-19 state of emergency that make it impractical for the health care professional or health care facility to provide the level or manner of care to any person that otherwise would have been required in the absence of the COVID-19 state of emergency.”

143-B LeFleurs Square • Post Office Box 1700 • Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1700
Bureau of Health Facilities • Division of Professional Licensure • Division of Childcare Licensure
Criminal History Record Check Unit
601/364-1100 • Fax 601/364-5055 • www.HealthyMS.com

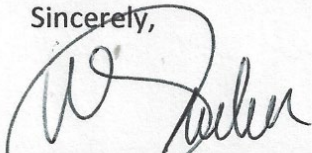
Equal Opportunity in Employment/Services

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The Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Licensure is available to assist you as you continue to respond to the current surge as well as the ongoing emergency. Please feel free to contact my office at 601.364.1104 if you have any questions regarding the provisions of services during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa L. Parker", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Melissa L. Parker, CPM, Director
Office of Licensure
MS State Department of Health