WHEREAS, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., the Governor declared a Public Health emergency in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020 in response to the threat posed by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, in Emergency Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, the Governor declared that a statewide public health emergency exists in the State of Louisiana because of COVID-19 and expressly empowered the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the Secretary of the Department of Health and/or the State Health Officer to take all actions authorized under state law;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, in Emergency Proclamation Number 27 JBE 2020, the Governor supplemented the measures taken in his declaration of a Public Health Emergency with additional restrictions and suspensions of deadlines and regulations in order to protect the health and safety of the public because of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the extraordinary threat posed by COVID-19 has caused critical shortages of health care equipment, personal protective equipment, and possible shortages in hospital beds, throughout the state;

WHEREAS, without additional measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the state, health care facilities in parts of the state or even throughout the state are at significant risk of being overwhelmed;

WHEREAS, in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and after consultation with the State Health Officer and the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, it is clear that additional measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public, to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and to disrupt the spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, after declaration of a public health emergency, the Governor is authorized by La. R.S. 29:766(D)(7) to control “ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein”; 

WHEREAS, in addition to the temporary closure of certain businesses ordered because of this emergency in Section 2 of Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020, certain additional businesses need to be temporarily closed to the public during this emergency;

WHEREAS, further, in addition to businesses closed to the public by this order, other businesses throughout the state will need to reduce operations to continue with minimum contact with members of the public and only essential employees, while requiring proper social distancing;

WHEREAS, these measures relating to closure of certain businesses and to limit the operations of non-essential businesses are necessary because of the propensity of the COVID-19 virus to spread via personal interactions and because of physical contamination of property due to its ability to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time; and
WHEREAS, these measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the people of Louisiana.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: All state office buildings are closed to the public, effective immediately. However, essential state functions shall continue.

SECTION 2: Section 1 of Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020 is hereby amended as follows:

In an effort to reduce and limit the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana, and to preserve the health and safety of all members of the public, all gatherings of 10 people or more shall be postponed or cancelled. This applies only to gatherings in a single space at the same time where individuals will be in close proximity to one another. It does not apply to normal operations at locations like airports, medical facilities, office buildings, factories or manufacturing facilities, or grocery stores. This provision may be extended beyond Monday, April 13, 2020 by further order.

SECTION 3: To preserve the public health and safety, and to ensure the healthcare system is capable of serving all citizens in need, especially those at high risk and vulnerable to COVID-19, all individuals within the state of Louisiana are under a general stay-at-home order and are directed to stay home unless performing an essential activity. An activity is essential if the purpose of the activity is one of the following:

A. Obtaining food, medicine, and other similar goods necessary for the individual or a family member of the individual.
B. Obtaining non-elective medical care and treatment and other similar vital services for an individual or a family member of the individual.
C. Going to and from an individual’s workplace to perform a job function necessary to provide goods or services being sought in Subsections (A) and (B) of this Section, or as otherwise deemed essential worker functions. Guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on what workers are essential is outlined at https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19.
D. Going to and from the home of a family member.
E. Going to and from an individual’s place of worship.
F. Engaging in outdoor activity, provided individuals maintain a distance of six feet from one another and abide by the 10-person limitation on gathering size established in this proclamation.

SECTION 4: (A) Further, in addition to businesses that are closed to the public pursuant to Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020, the following nonessential businesses shall be closed to the public and members:

1. All places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to, locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, trampoline parks, aquariums, zoos, museums, arcades, fairs, pool halls, children’s play centers, playgrounds, theme parks, any theaters, concert and music halls, adult entertainment venues, racetracks, and other similar businesses.
2. All personal care and grooming businesses, including but not limited to, barber shops, beauty salons, nail salons, spas, massage parlors, tattoo parlors, and other similar businesses.
3. All malls, except for stores in a mall that have a direct outdoor entrance and exit that provide essential services and products as provided by CISA guidelines.

(B) Businesses closed to the public pursuant to this provision shall not be prohibited from conducting necessary activities such as payroll, cleaning services, maintenance or upkeep as necessary.

SECTION 5: Any business not covered by the guidance from the CISA discussed in Section 3 and not ordered temporarily closed in Section 4 shall reduce operations to continue with minimum contact with members of the public and essential employees, while requiring proper social distancing. Further, the 10-person limitation on gathering size shall apply to such business operations. Early learning centers and child care facilities adhering to the guidance issued by the Louisiana Department of Education and Office of Public Health may continue to operate.

SECTION 6: The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is directed to ensure compliance with this order, and is empowered to exercise all authorities pursuant to La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., and La. R.S. 29:760, et seq.

SECTION 7: Unless otherwise provided in this order, these provisions are effective from 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020 to Monday, April 13, 2020, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 22nd day of March, 2020.

[Signature]

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE