

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

In Re:

SUSPENSION OF STATUTES, RULES,  
AND ORDERS PURSUANT TO  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER  
24-214 MADE NECESSARY BY  
HURRICANE MILTON

DOH No. 24-004

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
2024 OCT 11 AM 10:53  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

**EMERGENCY ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, on October 5, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-214 regarding Tropical Storm Milton and declared a state of emergency in 35 counties; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 5, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-215 declaring a state of emergency in 16 additional counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Tropical Storm Milton has strengthened into a hurricane and made landfall as a major hurricane; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 4 of Executive Order 24-214 authorizes each state agency to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency, and

**WHEREAS**, the threat posed by Hurricane Milton requires supplemental deployment of licensed health care professionals from neighboring jurisdictions to prevent interruption in the delivery of critical health care services; and





**WHEREAS**, the threat posed by Hurricane Milton requires precautions to minimize disruptions in the delivery of health care services in impacted areas; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to waive certain statutes and rules administered and enforced by the Department of Health, with which strict compliance would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency, including the provision of medical transport, treatment, and care for patients in Florida,

**NOW THEREFORE I, JOSEPH A. LADAPO, MD, PhD**, pursuant to Section 4.B. of Executive Order 24-214, find that strict compliance with the provisions of certain regulatory statutes and rules prescribing the procedures for the conduct of state business by the Department of Health will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency caused by Hurricane Milton. In order to effectively respond to the threat posed by Hurricane Milton, it is necessary to promulgate the following:

**Section 1: Waiver of Practitioner Licensure Requirements**

Sections 456.065(2) and 401.41(1)(b), Florida Statutes, which establish penalties for the unlicensed practice of health care professions in Florida, are likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency. The provisions of sections 456.065(2) and 401.41(1)(b), Florida Statutes, are hereby suspended for any health care professional listed below that holds a valid, unrestricted, and unencumbered license in any state, territory, and/or district while providing services necessary to prepare for, respond to, or mitigate the effects of Hurricane Milton. The permitted provision of health care services under this section is limited to the following licensees:

- a. Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians and their Medical Directors as defined by Chapter 401, Florida Statutes.
- b. Physicians and Physician Assistants under Chapter 458, Florida Statutes.
- c. Osteopathic Physicians and Physician Assistants under Chapter 459, Florida Statutes.





- d. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses under Chapter 464, Part I, Florida Statutes.
- e. Certified Nursing Assistants under Chapter 464, Part II, Florida Statutes.
- f. Mental Health Counselors, Clinical Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists under Chapter 491, Florida Statutes.

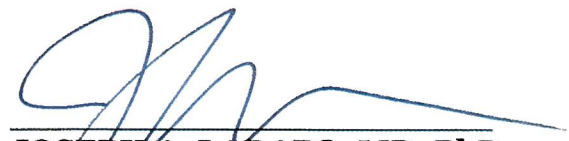
**Section 2: Waiver of Telehealth Registration Requirement**

Section 456.47(4)(a), Florida Statutes, which requires health care practitioners to register with the Florida Department of Health prior to providing telehealth services to Florida patients, is likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency. Section 456.47(4)(a), Florida Statutes, is hereby suspended for any health care professional listed below that holds a valid, unrestricted, and unencumbered license in any state, territory, and/or district that provides services necessary to prepare for, respond to, or mitigate the effects of Hurricane Milton. The permitted provision of telehealth services under this section is limited to the following licensees:

- a. Physicians and Physician Assistants under Chapter 458, Florida Statutes.
- b. Osteopathic Physicians and Physician Assistants under Chapter 459, Florida Statutes.
- c. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses under Chapter 464, Florida Statutes.
- d. Mental Health Counselors, Clinical Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists under Chapter 491, Florida Statutes.

The effective dates of this Emergency Order correspond with the effective dates of Executive Order 24-214, and any extension thereof.

Executed this 11th day of October 2024, in Department of Health Offices, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.



**JOSEPH A. LADAPO, MD, PhD**  
**STATE SURGEON GENERAL**