

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**

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2024 SEP 25 AM 9:55
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

In Re:

SUSPENSION OF STATUTES, RULES,
AND ORDERS PURSUANT TO
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER
24-208 MADE NECESSARY BY
TROPICAL STORM HELENE

DOH No. 24-002

EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-208 regarding Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine and declared a state of emergency in 41 counties; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-209 declaring a state of emergency in 20 additional counties; and

WHEREAS, Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine has strengthened to Tropical Storm Helene and is expected to make landfall as a major hurricane; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Executive Order 24-208 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, it is necessary for the Department of Health to expeditiously procure commodities, goods, and services to effectively respond to the threat posed by Tropical Storm





Helene; and

WHEREAS, the threat posed by Tropical Storm Helene 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 Tropical Storm Helene 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. Executive Order 24-208, find that strict compliance with the provisions of certain regulatory statutes and rules prescribing the procedures for the conduct of state business by the Florida Department of Health will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency caused by Tropical Storm Helene. In order to effectively respond to the threat posed by Tropical Storm Helene, it is necessary to promulgate the following:

Section 1: Procurement

Sections 287.055(3)(a)-(d), (4)(a)-(d), (5)(a)-(c), and 287.057(3), Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rules 60A-1.002(4), 60A-1.021(2), and 60A-1.043(1)-(3), 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 and are hereby suspended.



Section 2: Waiver of Emergency Medical Licensure Requirements

Sections 401.25(1), 2(d), 401.251(1), (4)(b), Florida Statutes, which require basic life support service providers, advanced life support service providers, and air ambulance services to obtain Florida licenses and certificates of public convenience from each county in which they operate, 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 401.25(1), 2(d), 401.251(1), (4)(b), Florida Statutes, are hereby suspended for any basic life support service provider, advanced life support service provider, and air ambulance service provider 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 Tropical Storm Helene.

Section 3: 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 Tropical Storm Helene. The permitted provision of health care services under this section is limited to the following licensees:

- a. Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians and Medical Directors as defined by Chapter 401, Florida Statutes.



Section 4: Prescription Drug Monitoring Reporting

Section 893.055(3)(a), Florida Statutes, which requires dispensers to report controlled substance prescription data to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program within one business day, 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. The Department of Health authorizes a reporting extension in accordance with Section 893.055(3)(a), Florida Statutes, for up to 30 days.

Section 5: Renewal Extensions

Sections 468.1715(2), 468.309(1)(a), and 468.711, Florida Statutes, which require certain health care providers to renew their licenses every two years, 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 Department of Health authorizes an extension of the upcoming renewal deadlines for Nursing Home Administrators, Radiological Personnel, and Athletic Trainers until October 31, 2024.

The effective dates of this Emergency Order correspond with the effective dates of Executive Order 24-208, and any extension thereof.

Executed this 25th day of September 2024, in Department of Health Offices,
Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ladapo", written over a horizontal line.

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