April 2, 2020

As Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (“Department”), pursuant to Executive Orders 20-02 and 20-04, I am vested with the authority to temporarily waive or suspend the operation of any statutory requirement or administrative rule, upon approval of the Office of the Governor. After consultation with and receiving approval from the Office of the Governor, I am hereby waiving the following laws in order to assist the state, and its citizens prepare and respond to COVID-19 until May 15, 2020, unless otherwise modified by the Department.

Hospital Inspections and Investigations

Section 197.100 RSMo, and 19 CSR 30-20.015(8)A, shall be waived to the extent necessary to temporarily suspend the requirement of state hospital inspections and investigations. The Department shall temporarily suspend all state licensure inspections and investigations of hospitals, with the exception of those necessary to maintain public health and safety and those considered to be immediate jeopardy situations, during the declared emergency period.

The hospital licensure program would like to suspend the inspection/survey process in order to ensure that DHSS staff do not expose patients to COVID-19 and do not become exposed to COVID-19. This is in line with the federal order suspending the inspection/survey process. It is immediate to protect patients and DHSS staff from getting or transmitting COVID-19. Request for this to last until the end of the state of emergency, in coordination with the Governor’s Executive Order.

Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG
Director