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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

SECRETARY OF STATE
PUBLIC INFORMATION

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

09-11

May 13, 2009

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WHEREAS, the 2009 H1N1 virus or swine flu is spreading rapidly across the nation and world and has reached the Rhode Island population and infected certain members of the citizenry; and

WHEREAS, illness, hospitalizations and death has been reported among populations nationally and internationally as a result of individuals contracting the 2009 H1N1 virus; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a national health emergency and the World Health Organization a Level 5 pandemic emergency regarding the 2009 H1N1 virus; and

WHEREAS, issuance of this Executive Order may help Rhode Island maximize federal monetary reimbursement of costs associated with the 2009 H1N1 virus; and

WHEREAS, the nature of the 2009 H1N1 virus is unique in many respects, is unusually and highly contagious, has spread around the world in a matter of weeks, and is differing from seasonal influenza in that over half the cases reported have affected individuals eighteen years old or younger, has spread more quickly between children in households than among adults, and most of the hospitalizations have been in children or young adults; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island must continue to be vigilant in combating the 2009 H1N1 virus as the history of calamitous pandemics such as the 1918 influenza pandemic reveals that viruses can appear in a mild form in the springtime yet mutate over a five to six month period into a more virulent strain in the fall of the same calendar year; and

WHEREAS, after consultation with the Director of the Department of Health and other medical and governmental officials on the state and national level it appears the threat of the spread of the 2009 H1N1 virus remains a public health threat as contemplated in Chapter 15 of Title 30 of the Rhode Island General laws and protective measures must be taken; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island state and local governmental officials and the medical community must implement prevention and treatment procedures to reduce the vulnerability of people and communities in this state and the immunity from liability protections for individuals working with the Department of Health and Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency as a result of this Executive Order will assure the most efficient and effective response from state officials in preparing and responding to the hazards presented by the onset of the 2009 H1N1 virus.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby order as follows:

1. I hereby invoke the provisions of Chapter 15 of Title 30 of the Rhode Island General Laws, to be employed as necessary, in order to continue to aid the state most effectively in combating the onset and planning for the ongoing threat of the 2009 H1N1 virus in Rhode Island;
2. Pursuant to my authority set forth in Chapter 15 of Title 30 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I hereby direct the Director of the Department of Health and the Adjutant General, as head of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with members of my office, to take relevant and necessary measures, in order to efficiently and effectively address the issues caused by spread of and threat from the H1N1 virus;

3. All health and medical officials, as well as local emergency management officials, shall act in consultation and coordination with the Department of Health and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and other state officials as deemed necessary.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until further notice.

So Ordered:



Donald L. Carcieri

Dated: 5/13/09