

Executive Order No. 2017-23

WHEREAS, the National Hurricane Center advises that Hurricane Irma, currently a category 5, moving northwest will likely affect or strike the coast of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the force of Hurricane Irma represents an imminent threat to the safety, security, and welfare of the residents and patients of coastal healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, I am authorized pursuant to section 25-1-440 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Revised 2007, as amended, as the elected Chief Executive of the State to “direct and compel evacuation of all or part of the populace from any stricken or threatened area if this action is considered necessary for the preservation of life or other emergency mitigation, response, or recovery;” and

WHEREAS, I have declared a State of Emergency in South Carolina pursuant to Executive Order 2017-20; and

WHEREAS, I have determined that evacuation of healthcare facilities is necessary for the preservation of life in and surrounding the threatened area.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as the Governor pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of South Carolina, effective 2 PM, September 7, 2017, I do hereby order a mandatory evacuation of all healthcare facilities, licensed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (“Department”) and located in the designated evacuation zones in the following counties:

| County | Evacuation Zone |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Beaufort | Zone All |
| Charleston | Zone A,B,C |
| Dorchester | Zone B,D,E,F |
| Berkeley | Zone B,G |
| Colleton | Zone A,B |
| Jasper | Zone A,B |
| Georgetown | Zone A,B |
| Horry | Zone A,B |

For purposes of this Order, healthcare facilities include acute care hospitals, renal dialysis facilities, psychiatric hospitals, alcohol and substance abuse hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, nursing homes, community residential care facilities (also called assisted living facilities), ambulatory surgical facilities, hospice facilities, radiation therapy facilities, abortion facilities, day care facilities for adults, residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents, intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disability, narcotic treatment programs, inpatient facilities that treat individuals for psychoactive substance abuse or dependence, and birthing centers.

Effective at 2 PM today, September 7, 2017, all healthcare facilities in the evacuation zones are hereby ordered to immediately reduce their census of patients, stop admission of any non-emergent patients, stop scheduling any patients for elective procedures, and cancel any elective procedures which have been

previously scheduled.

S.C. Regs. 61-16, Section 901, allows hospitals to seek exemptions from the Department to shelter in place pursuant to the Department's Critical Data Sheet (CDS) Information system and other supporting information.

Patients may be allowed to remain in the hospital and shelter-in-place if:

(1) A physician has reviewed the status of each patient and discharged all patients who could reasonably be discharged without jeopardizing the patient's safety. This includes consideration of the risk to the patient's health or life by moving him/her versus the risk of the patient's remaining in the hospital during the emergency. The hospital must provide the Department a contact person (name, e-mail, telephone numbers) who will provide confirmation that the hospital is in compliance with all aspects of this order; and

(2) The hospital has a plan and ensures there will be sufficient and appropriate staff on duty in the hospital at all times during the sheltering-in-place, and the staff are capable of supporting the patient and his/her parent, guardian, spouse or representative who may stay with the patient; and

(3) The hospital has a plan and ensures there is sufficient food, water, medications, equipment and other logistical support internal to the hospital to maintain every person within the hospital for ninety-six (96) hours post impact of the hurricane.

Any persons, non-Emergency Management personnel, medical personnel or administrative personnel who remain in the evacuation zones, and any hospital administrators who allow persons in their charge to remain in the evacuation zones, thereby become responsible for their own safety and well-being and for the safety and well-being of those under their charge. All are charged with the knowledge that should they need the assistance of emergency personnel or services, those personnel or services may not be available or capable of coming to their aid.

Further proclamations and directives deemed necessary to ensure the fullest protection of life and property during this State of Emergency shall be issued orally by me and thereafter reduced to writing within the succeeding 24-hour period. Executive Order 2017-23 shall remain in effect until rescinded or otherwise amended.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 7th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2017.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**