

**GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
LA FORTALEZA
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

Administrative Bulletin Number: OE-2017-58

**EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, HON. RICARDO
ROSSELLÓ-NEVARES, TO ALLOW PHYSICIANS OR OSTEOPATHIC DOCTORS
AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN PUERTO RICO, AND TO
GRANT STATE IMMUNITY TO ALL VOLUNTEERING PHYSICIANS FROM PUERTO
RICO AND FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

WHEREAS: The Government of Puerto Rico is taking all necessary measures to safeguard public order and protect the life, security, and property of our citizens.

WHEREAS: On September 19 and 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, becoming the most devastating weather event in eighty (80) years, both for the local infrastructure and for the provision of essential services to our citizens.

WHEREAS: On September 17, 2017, the Governor of Puerto Rico signed Executive Order No. 2017-047, Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2017-047, declaring a state of emergency in the face of the impending strike of Hurricane Maria.

WHEREAS: Article 15 of Law No. 211-1999, as amended ("Law No. 211-1999") authorizes the Governor to enforce such measures as may be necessary to handle the emergency during the emergency period, after declaring a state of emergency, in order to protect the security, health, and property of all the residents of Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS: Moreover, Subsection (b) of Article 15 of Law 211-1999, provides that the Governor of Puerto Rico may dictate, amend, or repeal any rules, as well as issue, amend, or cancel any orders that he may deem appropriate during the state of emergency or disaster.

CERTIFIED TRANSLATION

WHEREAS: Under Subsection (c) of the aforementioned Article 15 of Law 211-1999, the Governor of Puerto Rico may also enforce any state regulations, orders, plans, or measures for emergency or disaster situations, and may change said regulations, orders, plans, or measures as he may deem fit.

WHEREAS: As provided in Article 19 of Law 211-1999, any rules or orders issued during a state of emergency or disaster shall have the force of law for the duration of said state of emergency or disaster.

WHEREAS: The situation in Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria poses an impending risk to the health and general wellbeing of citizens.

WHEREAS: Due to the current state of emergency, several physicians who are duly licensed in the jurisdiction of Puerto Rico have volunteered their services throughout the island, thus ensuring the wellbeing of the community.

WHEREAS: However, physicians or osteopathic doctors and physician assistants from other jurisdictions of the United States of America must join the effort to provide voluntary services during the emergency.

THEREFORE: I, RICARDO A. ROSSELLÓ-NEVARES, Governor of Puerto Rico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of Puerto Rico, hereby DECLARE and ORDER the following:

SECTION 1: A Medical Volunteers Corps is hereby constituted to provide support and assistance in the health field. This Medical Volunteers Corps shall be composed of physicians or osteopathic doctors and physician assistants, with license issued by the Puerto Rico Licensing and Medical Discipline Board; as well as any other physician, osteopathic doctors, or physician assistant duly accredited or licensed in any state or territory of the United States of America.

SECTION 2: All physicians, osteopathic doctors, and physician assistants interested in joining the Medical Volunteers Corps must provide their services throughout the island in a voluntary manner.

SECTION 3: Agencies are ordered to keep a record of all physicians, osteopathic doctors, and physician assistants who are providing voluntary services as part of the recovery process after the emergency declared through Executive Order No. 2017-47.

SECTION 4: All physicians, osteopathic doctors, and physician assistants who hold a license or accreditation from any state or territory of the United States of America and who provide voluntary services shall be exempted from the requirements established under Law No. 139-2008, as amended, known as the "Licensing and Medical Discipline Board Act," and Law No. 71-2017, known as the "Act to Regulate the Profession of Physician Assistant in Puerto Rico," and shall be able to practice medicine in Puerto Rico within the parameters established or to be established by the Licensing and Medical Discipline Board, without having to request a license issued by said Board, provided that they are duly accredited or licensed in any state or territory of the United States of America.

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SECTION 5: All physicians, osteopathic doctors, and physician assistants holding a license issued by the Puerto Rico Licensing and Medical Discipline Board, as well as any other physician, osteopathic doctor, and physician assistant duly accredited or licensed in any state or territory of the United States of America, who are providing voluntary services through the Medical Volunteer Corps and in accordance with the state of emergency declared by means of Executive Order 2017-47, shall be considered as employees of the Government of Puerto Rico and shall be covered by the immunity granted by Article 41.050 of Law No. 77 of June 19, 1957, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Insurance Code," while they are in compliance of their duties and functions for the Government of Puerto Rico.

SECTION 6: AGENCY: The term "agency" shall mean any department, office, bureau, commission, board, administration, authority, public corporation, or any other body or instrumentality of the Executive Branch.

SECTION 7: VALIDITY. This Executive Order shall come into force immediately.

SECTION 8 PUBLICATION. This Executive Order must be filed immediately with the Department of State and the widest possible publication is hereby ordered.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Government of Puerto Rico to be affixed, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 6th day of October of 2017.




RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES
GOBERNADOR

Enacted in accordance with the law, on this 6th day of October of 2017.



LUIS GERARDO RIVERA MARÍN
SECRETARIO DE ESTADO

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