

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

Administrative Bulletin Number: OE-2021-070

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, TO AMEND ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN NO. OE-2021-065 IN ORDER TO EXTEND ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

WHEREAS:

The Government of Puerto Rico has the constitutional responsibility to make every effort as necessary to prevent and stop the spread of COVID-19, as well as to safeguard the health, life, and safety of the residents of Puerto Rico and visitors alike.

WHEREAS:

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a dynamic and changing scenario that compels the Government to redesign its strategies in order to timely manage infections in the population, so as to ensure the medical-hospital resources, and in turn, avoid the collapse of our economy.

WHEREAS:

In accordance with the state of emergency prevailing across the world, as the Governor of Puerto Rico, I have issued multiple executive orders in response to the pandemic for the purpose of implementing certain measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 on the Island. In the last few weeks, particularly, I issued administrative bulletins nos. OE-2021-058, OE-2021-062, OE-2021-063, and OE-2021-064 providing for a COVID-19 vaccination mandate, subject to certain exceptions and options.

WHEREAS:

On August 30, 2021, I issued Administrative Bulletin No. OE- 2021-065 taking additional actions given that, as we all know, the vaccine

becomes fully effective two weeks after the administration of the last doses, and there was still time for those executive orders to achieve their purposes.

At present, the data shows that vaccination and the other measures implemented have reduced the relevant statistics across the board. Specifically, the data furnished by the Department of Health of Puerto Rico shows that the daily average of confirmed cases is 154 positive cases, which has decreased since August 2021. Likewise, the statistics show a reduction in the number of hospitalizations for a total of 257 people hospitalized. Regarding intensive care units, as of today, there are 79 adults hospitalized. Moreover, 60 adults are connected to ventilators as a result of COVID-19, which also constitutes another decrease. Meanwhile, the positivity rate, that is, the percentage of people who test positive to the virus out of all the people who get tested, is at an average of 4.19%. This number has also decreased compared to previous months.

The report of the Department of Health available as of today shows a death average of approximately 6 cases per day. As to new deaths, the report shows 2 additional deaths.

In the United States, the average of positive cases in one week decreased to over 142,000.

The aforementioned statistics prove that in Puerto Rico's case, vaccination and the measures taken have reduced the numbers in various areas.



WHEREAS:

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However, the numbers are still high, thus compromising the safety of our People. For such reason, it is necessary for the Government to continue taking action to control infection and protect everyone's life. This is critical to continue allowing our students to attend school in person and to protect our economy. Therefore, the Government is responsible for guaranteeing the continuation of classes in person and protecting the lives of our people and Puerto Rico's economy. In view of the foregoing, it is necessary to continue taking measures regarding certain activities and places where there is a high-risk of transmission to minimize infection and subsequent hospitalizations and deaths.

WHEREAS:

It should be noted that each citizen is responsible individually for being prudent and wise when carrying out or attending any personal, commercial, or professional activity. If every Puerto Rican follows to the letter all the precautionary measures established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the administrative orders, the Department of Health, as well as the other components of the Government of Puerto Rico, indubitably we will all be protected. Thus, each citizen has the responsibility to continue adhering to the precautionary measures imposed, avoid large gatherings, as well as be prudent and decide when not to participate in any activity that would jeopardize his health or the health of others.



WHEREAS:

Article 5.10 of Act No. 20-2017, as amended, better known as the "Puerto Rico Public Safety Department Act," empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency on our Island, and "to establish or modify state regulations, orders, plans, or measures for emergencies or disasters as deemed necessary," as well as "to enact, amend or repeal any regulation, and to enact, amend, or rescind any order as deemed appropriate during the state of emergency or disaster."

Since March 12, 2020, Puerto Rico is in a state of emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In view of this, this Executive Order is issued to continue implementing certain necessary measures to address the emergency declared in Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-020.

THEREFORE:

I, PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, Governor of Puerto Rico, by virtue of the powers inherent to my office and the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the Government of Puerto Rico, hereby declare and order the following:

Section 1:

Section 15 of Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2021-065 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 15:
EFFECTIVENESS. This Executive Order shall take effect on September 2, 2021, and shall remain in effect until October 14, 2021, unless a new order is issued in accordance with the public health and safety needs.



Section 2:

MODIFICATIONS. During the effectiveness of this Order, the analysis of the measures taken shall continue in order to analyze their results and adopt any modifications as necessary in a timely manner.

Section 3:

SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Executive Order are separate and independent from each other, and if any part, section, provision, or sentence of this Executive Order is held to be unconstitutional, void, or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force.

Section 4:

NON-CREATION OF ENFORCEABLE RIGHTS. This Executive Order is not intended to create any rights, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by any person or entity, in any matter, civil, criminal, or administrative, against the Government of Puerto Rico or its agencies, officials, employees, or any other person.

Section 5:

REPEALING CLAUSE. This Executive Order renders ineffective any other executive orders that are inconsistent, whether in whole or in part, with the provisions herein to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 6:

EFFECTIVENESS. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Section 7:

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby issue this Executive Order under my signature and cause the Great Seal of the Government of Puerto Rico to be affixed, in La Fortaleza, San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 20th day of September of 2021.



PEDRO R. PIERLUISI
GOVERNOR

Promulgated in accordance with the law on this 20th day of September of 2021.

OMAR J. MARRERO DÍAZ
SECRETARY OF STATE