

**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE STATE HEALTH OFFICER**

Pursuant to the authority vested by *Code of Ala. 1975*, § 22-2-8, the State Health Officer issues this Emergency Order as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Milton is anticipated to make landfall in Florida, and otherwise potentially impact surrounding states; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida has issued a mandatory evacuation for affected residents, and some of these residents are anticipated to evacuate to the State of Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, it is expected that displaced individuals from healthcare facilities in affected areas will be placed in healthcare facilities licensed by the State Board of Health; and

**WHEREAS**, under the current emergency conditions, certain requirements of rules of the State Board of Health applicable to its licensed healthcare facilities are impractical and should be waived.

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is ordered that the following rules applicable to residential healthcare facilities – particularly skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities (ALFs), and specialty care assisted living facilities (SCALFs) – are waived:

1. Orders from a physician licensed in Alabama (orders from out-of-state physicians is acceptable);
2. Pre-admission screening and new physical examination for ALF and SCALF residents.
3. Pre-admission screening for mental illness; and
4. Two-step Tuberculosis screening as part of the admission process.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that rules regarding licensed bed capacity for residential healthcare facilities are modified to allow residential healthcare facilities that receive displaced individuals to exceed their licensed bed capacity.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any licensed residential healthcare facility that accepts displaced individuals shall immediately report same to the Alabama Department of Public Health's Bureau of Health Provider Standards.

This Emergency Order shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of the existence of the current emergency conditions.

Done on this 7 day of October, 2024.



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Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Health Officer