The State of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #275

Relating to Interagency Cooperation to Urgently Safeguard Wisconsinites' Access to Vaccinations

WHEREAS, vaccination is one of the greatest public health achievements of all time, saving lives worldwide and leading to the decrease and elimination of vaccine-preventable diseases and improving the health outcomes and lifespan for people of all ages;

WHEREAS, robust processes remain in place to support high-quality research, testing, and safety review before vaccines are permitted to be administered in the United States, ensuring that risks are evaluated and mitigated and that benefits, including effectiveness and safety, are continually monitored;

WHEREAS, vaccine-preventable diseases, including COVID-19, remain a significant public health threat, contributing to illness, hospitalization, disability, and death of Wisconsinites;

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin and across the country, the effects of the spread and harms of preventable illnesses can collectively cause disruptions to families, schools, businesses, communities, and the economy, strain healthcare systems and the healthcare workforce, and result in greater expenses to the public;

WHEREAS, under the previous Trump Administration, which coincided with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the federal Food and Drug Administration helped develop and approve COVID-19 vaccinations "in record time" and "without cutting corners in safety and effectiveness," ultimately recommending the vaccine for individuals aged six months and older as the safest and most effective means of preventing serious COVID-19 illness and transmission after numerous clinical trials and vaccine studies, consistent with evidence-based recommendations supported by public health experts across major professional organizations and societies;

WHEREAS, in blatant contradiction of years of peer-reviewed research, independent evidence reviews, broad consensus of the science and public health communities, and undermining the previous Trump Administration's own efforts and approvals, the Food and Drug Administration under the current Trump Administration recently reversed course on years of previous guidance, only recommending the COVID-19 vaccination for individuals 65 years of age and older and certain individuals at higher risk of severe disease;

WHEREAS, medical professionals and public health experts agree that vaccines remain the safest and most effective way to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death, for example, the American Academy of Family Physicians recommends the COVID-19 vaccine for adults under 65 without chronic health conditions, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the COVID-19 vaccine for all children and adolescents aged six months through 17 years of age, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals who are pregnant or lactating, and the World Health Organization recommends vaccinating for COVID-19 at every age;

WHEREAS, recent federal actions contradicting science and medical professional consensus have resulted in widespread confusion and uncertainty

about how parents, families, seniors, and others can keep themselves and their loved ones safe, whether and where individuals can access safe and effective vaccines, and for medical professionals who have a duty to ensure their patients receive the life-saving care they need; and

WHEREAS, the state of Wisconsin will continue to be diligent and vigilant about following scientific consensus and peer-reviewed studies and using the guidance of national physician and health organizations to ensure Wisconsinites continue to have access to—and accurate information about—safe and effective vaccines, know how they can work to keep themselves and their families safe from preventable disease and illness, and have certainty as to insurance coverage of their vaccines, among other critical information, while ensuring healthcare providers in Wisconsin can continue to use their medical judgment and training within their scope of practice to recommend and administer vaccines.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, hereby order as follows:

1. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services ("DHS") shall:
    a. Work with the Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board, the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI), and any other relevant state agencies and offices to ensure vaccine access for Wisconsinites to the fullest extent of the law and available funding;
    b. Direct the DHS chief medical officers to review and continually monitor the available medical evidence and guidance on the COVID-19 vaccine and, if appropriate, promptly issue standing order(s) or protocol(s) regarding access to COVID-19 vaccines, in order to dispel the existing confusion and uncertainty prompted by recent federal actions;
    c. Consider whether additional measures, including standing orders, protocols, and guidance, may be necessary to provide clarity and guidance on other routine vaccines;
    d. Issue guidance as appropriate to the public, payors, and healthcare professionals on vaccine safety, efficacy, and effectiveness; and
    e. Issue guidance as appropriate to Wisconsinites on how and where to access vaccines.
2. The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance ("OCI") shall:
    a. Collaborate with health plans on ways to ensure their insureds are informed with accurate, up-to-date information regarding their access to vaccines and limiting the costs of vaccines; and
    b. Direct all health insurers within their regulatory authority to provide coverage for the COVID-19 vaccine without cost-sharing to all their insureds.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this fifteenth day of September in the year of two thousand twenty-five.

TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State