

Executive Order No. 2018-31

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2018, the undersigned issued Executive Order 2018-26, declaring a State of Emergency due to the significant threat posed by Hurricane Florence and placing into effect the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in the threatened areas; and

WHEREAS, upon consultation with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the undersigned determined that the evacuation of certain threatened areas was necessary for the preservation of life and that the evacuation of certain healthcare facilities in the threatened areas should begin prior to a general population evacuation due to timing and logistical concerns; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, the undersigned issued Executive Order 2018-28, ordering a mandatory medical evacuation, effective at 1:00 p.m. on September 10, 2018, of all healthcare facilities licensed by DHEC located in specified Evacuation Zones in Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry Counties in accordance with DHEC's Mandatory Medical Evacuation Protocols; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, the undersigned issued Executive Order 2018-29, ordering the evacuation, effective at 12:00 p.m. on September 11, 2018, of all persons located in specified Evacuation Zones in Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry Counties, with the exception of critical or emergency response personnel, due to the imminent danger posed by Hurricane Florence and based on the forecasted track of the same; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing evacuation orders were issued in light of the anticipated path and impact of Hurricane Florence and the resulting threats to the safety, security, and welfare of the general population and of residents and patients of coastal healthcare facilities and the need to take timely precautions to protect people, property, critical infrastructure, and communities; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Weather Service, Beaufort County, Jasper County, and certain portions of Colleton County are no longer within the National Hurricane Center's Track Forecast Cone and are not currently under a hurricane watch; and

WHEREAS, DHEC has advised that Hurricane Florence no longer poses an imminent threat to the life, health, safety, or welfare of residents and patients of coastal healthcare facilities in Beaufort County, Jasper County, and certain portions of Colleton County; and

WHEREAS, after carefully considering the latest weather forecasts and other relevant information regarding Hurricane Florence's projected track, the undersigned has determined that it is appropriate based on current conditions for county authorities to make decisions about access to threatened areas in Beaufort County, Jasper County, and Colleton County (with the exception of Edisto Beach).

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby rescind the mandatory medical evacuation and general population evacuation orders for Beaufort County (Zone A), Jasper County (Zones A and B), and Colleton County (Zones A and B, with the exception of Edisto Beach), effective at 12:00 p.m. on September 11, 2018. A map of the remaining evacuation area for Edisto Beach is attached to this Executive Order. The corresponding provisions of Executive Order 2018-28 and Executive Order 2018-29 are hereby modified and amended to reflect the foregoing and to be consistent with the directives set forth herein.

FURTHER, nothing in this Order prohibits local officials from establishing a curfew or restricting access to areas of danger to ensure the welfare and safety of the general population and of healthcare facility patients, residents, and visitors. Accordingly, to the extent necessary, I hereby authorize state officials to assist in enforcing any applicable local curfews or restrictions to help ensure the welfare and safety of

residents and visitors. All residents and visitors remaining in or returning to the foregoing areas should continue to monitor weather forecasts and conditions and exercise due caution to travel safely across roads and bridges and should understand that portions of these areas may be without power or access to essential services.

This Order is effective immediately. 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.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 11th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**