The Director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (the “Department”) is authorized by Idaho Code § 56-1003(3) to exercise general supervision and promotion and protection of the health of Idahoans. Further, pursuant to its authority under Idaho Code § 56-1003(2), the Idaho Board of Health and Welfare approved the Crisis Standards of Care for Health Care Entities contained in IDAPA 16.02.09.

Crisis standards of care (CSC) provide guidelines that help healthcare providers and systems decide how to deliver the best care possible under the extraordinary circumstances of an overwhelming disaster or public health emergency. The guidelines are used when there are not enough healthcare resources to provide the usual standard of care to people who need it. The goal of crisis standards of care is to extend care to as many patients as possible and save as many lives as possible.

Deactivation of CSC is appropriate when resources are sufficient to provide the usual standard of care.

The CSC Activation Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) convened on January 21, 2022, and recommended the activation of CSC statewide. However, on January 24, 2022, CSC was only activated in the Southwest, Central and South Central Health Districts (Districts 3, 4, and 5). On February 15, 2022, the Committee recommended CSC be deactivated in Districts 3, 4, and 5. Subsequently, CSC was deactivated on February 15, 2022, which means that CSC are no longer active anywhere in Idaho.

The following conditions exist which support deactivating CSC for Health Districts 3, 4, and 5:

Department Director Dave Jeppesen convened the Committee on February 15, 2022, to review the situation at healthcare facilities for the Districts 3, 4, and 5.

The Committee determined that while the number of COVID-19 patients remains high and continues to stress healthcare systems, the surge is currently no longer exceeding the healthcare staffing and blood product resources available due to mitigation efforts that have been taken. While the state continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation, healthcare systems in Idaho are able to operate in contingency operations, which means they can deliver the functional equivalent of the usual standard of care, despite increased numbers of patients and ongoing resource challenges.

Therefore, pursuant to IDAPA 16.02.09.400, CSC previously activated in the Health Districts 3, 4, and 5 on January 24, 2022, is hereby deactivated.

IT IS SO DECLARED:

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DAVE JEPPESEN, DIRECTOR
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE