



DIRECTIVE AND ORDER REGARDING OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

**Pursuant to Md. Code Annotated, Health-General §§ 2-104, 18-102, 18-103 and Public Safety
§§ 14-106, 14-107**

I, Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health, finding it necessary for the prevention and control of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“2019-nCoV”) and for the protection of individuals and staff in health care facilities and community-based programs, hereby issue this Order and Directive (“Order”) regarding oversight of health care facilities and community-based programs by the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality (“OHCQ”).

1. Effective immediately, to best protect the health and safety of individuals and staff in health care facilities and community-based programs, as well as other Marylanders, and regardless of any statute or regulation to the contrary, the OHCQ’s licensing, oversight and inspection activities shall be limited to the following activities:

a. Administrative review and triage of all complaints and facility-reported incidents.

b. On-site investigations of those complaints and facility-reported incidents that are triaged as an immediate jeopardy and any follow-up visits necessary to confirm abatement of the immediate jeopardy situation.

c. Off-site processing of initial licensure applications and requests to increase capacity. An on-site visit will be conducted only if required for providers to seek reimbursement.

d. Other investigations if determined by the OHCQ's Executive Director or Designee to be imperative to protect the health and safety of Marylanders.

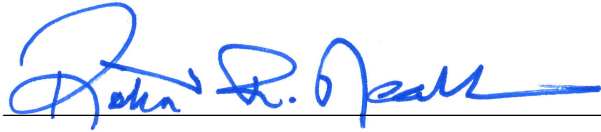
2. This Order applies to the following health care facilities and programs that OHCQ oversees in Maryland:

Adult Medical Day Care Centers

Ambulatory Surgical Centers
Assisted Living Programs
Birthing Centers
Community Mental Health Centers
Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities
Correctional Health Facilities
Cosmetic Surgery Facilities
Developmental Disabilities Sites
Employer Drug Testing Facilities
End Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Centers
Federally Qualified Health Centers
Forensic Residential Centers
Freestanding Medical Facilities
Health Awareness Testing Sites
Health Care Staff Agencies
Health Maintenance Organizations
Home Health Agencies
Hospice Houses
Hospices
Hospitals
Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
Laboratories, including Cholesterol Testing Sites, Federally Waived Laboratories, Forensic Laboratories, Hospital Laboratories, Independent Reference Laboratories, Physician Office Laboratories, Point-of-Care Laboratories
Limited Private Inpatient Facilities
Long Term Care Facilities
Major Medical Equipment Providers
Nurse Referral Agencies
Outpatient Physical Therapy Providers
Portable X-Ray Providers
Public Health Testing Sites

Residential Service Agencies
Residential Treatment Centers
Rural Health Clinics
Surgical Abortion Facilities
Tissue Banks
Transplant Centers

THIS DIRECTIVE AND ORDER IS ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 16TH DAY OF
MARCH 2020 AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.



Robert R. Neall

Secretary of Health