



MEDIA ALERT

August 4, 2020

State Health Officer Issues Immediate Statewide Order

JACKSON, Miss. – Today State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs MD, MPH, issued a statewide order for the Isolation of Individuals Diagnosed with COVID-19 effective immediately.

The Order – issued to everyone living in Mississippi – stipulates that anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 must immediately isolate at home.

Dobbs explains, “We have a lot of COVID activity throughout the state right now, so it is absolutely critical that anyone infected with COVID-19, and not hospitalized, **must** remain in the home or other appropriate residential location for 14 days from onset of illness (or from the date of a positive test for those who are asymptomatic).”

The failure or refusal to obey the lawful order of a health officer is, at a minimum, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500.00 (41-3-59) or imprisonment for six months or both. If a life-threatening disease is involved, failure or refusal to obey the lawful order of a health officer is a felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for up to five years or both (41-23-2).

Persons infected with COVID-19 should limit exposure to household contacts. No visitors should be allowed in the home. Please stay in a specific room away from others in your home. Use a separate bathroom if available. If you need to be around others in your home, you should wear a facemask. Please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html> for guidance on preventing transmission in the home.

Follow MSDH by email and social media at HealthyMS.com/connect.

-30-

CONTACT: Office of Communications, 601-576-7400

Note to media: After hours or during emergencies, call 601-576-7400

Online: HealthyMS.com facebook.com/HealthyMS twitter.com/msdh