



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

MAR 23 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Multiple states, counties, and towns across the United States have issued similar orders that direct individuals to shelter at their place of residence except that they may leave to provide or receive certain essential services or engage in certain essential activities and work for essential business and government services.

The United States Attorney General issued a memo on March 20, 2020, alerting law enforcement that certain employees and contractors of the Federal Government are required to continue their duties in support of essential government operations. In the Veterans Health Administration, employees and contractors engaged in healthcare delivery and support are performing an essential government function, which provides a basis for exemption from shelter in place requirements. Further, failure to provide needed healthcare delivery and support could adversely affect the health, welfare and safety of the public. Providing for healthcare delivery and support is considered an essential governmental function and is necessary to ensure continuity of operations within the terms of the orders.

The bearer of this letter is a critical VHA employee or contractor and part of our COVID-19 response team supporting Veterans across the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stone", is positioned above the printed name.

Richard A. Stone, MD
Executive in Charge