

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

In Re:

SUSPENSION OF STATUTES, RULES,
AND ORDERS PURSUANT TO
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER
26-202 MADE NECESSARY BY
TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS

DOH No. 26-001

EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2026, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 26-202 regarding Tropical Depression Nine and declared a state of emergency in Baker, Bay, Calhoun, Columbia, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Walton, Wakulla, and Washington counties; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2026, Tropical Depression Nine strengthened into Tropical Storm Isaias with sustained winds of 40 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Executive Order 26-202 authorizes each state agency to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Department of Health to expeditiously procure commodities, goods, and services to effectively respond to the threat posed by Tropical Storm Isaias; and

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2026 OCT -7 AM 10:28
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

WHEREAS, the threat posed by Tropical Storm Isaias requires supplemental deployment of licensed health care professionals from neighboring jurisdictions to prevent interruption in the delivery of critical health care services; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to waive certain statutes and rules administered and enforced by the Department of Health, with which strict compliance would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this emergency, including the provision of medical transport, treatment, and care for patients in Florida,

NOW, THEREFORE I, JOSEPH A. LADAPO, MD, PhD, pursuant to Section 4.B. of Executive Order 26-202, find that strict compliance with the provisions of certain regulatory statutes and rules prescribing the procedures for the conduct of state business by the Department of Health will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency caused by Tropical Storm Isaias. In order to effectively respond to the threat posed by this emergency, it is necessary to promulgate the following:

Section 1: Procurement

Sections 287.055(3)(a)-(d), (4)(a)-(d), (5)(a)-(c), and 287.057(3), Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rules 60A-1.002(4), 60A-1.021(2), and 60A-1.043(1)-(3), are likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency and are hereby suspended.

Section 2: Waiver of Emergency Medical Services Provider Licensure

Requirements

Sections 401.25(1), (2)(d), 401.251(1), and (4)(b), Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rules 64J-1.002(1), (2)(b), 64J-1.003(1), and 64J-1.005(1), which require basic life support service providers, advanced life support service providers, and air ambulance

services to obtain Florida licenses and certificates of public convenience and necessity from each county in which they operate, are likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency. The provisions of sections 401.25(1), (2)(d), 401.251(1), and (4)(b), Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rules 64J-1.002(1), (2)(b), 64J-1.003(1), and 64J-1.005(1), are hereby suspended for any basic life support service provider, advanced life support service provider, and air ambulance service provider that holds a valid, unrestricted, and unencumbered license in any state, territory, and/or district of the United States while providing services necessary to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, or recover from the effects of this emergency as approved by the Department of Health or a federal, state, or political subdivision emergency management director, notwithstanding the provisions of any existing mutual aid or interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Section 3: Waiver of Practitioner Licensure Requirements

Sections 401.41(1)(b) and 456.065(2), Florida Statutes, and the rules adopted thereunder, which establish penalties for the unlicensed practice of health care professions in Florida, are likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency. The provisions of sections 401.41(1)(b) and 456.065(2), Florida Statutes, and the rules adopted thereunder, are hereby suspended for any health care professional listed below who holds a valid, unrestricted, and unencumbered license in any state, territory, and/or district of the United States while providing services necessary to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, or recover from the effects of this emergency as approved by the Department of Health or a federal, state, or political subdivision emergency management director,

notwithstanding the provisions of any existing mutual aid or interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact. The permitted provision of health care services under this section is limited to the following licensees:

- a. Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Medical Directors as defined by Chapter 401, Florida Statutes.
- b. Registered Nurses and Respiratory Therapists while staffing a neonatal ambulance as defined by Florida Administrative Code Rule 64J-1.001(10).

Section 4: Prescription Drug Monitoring Reporting

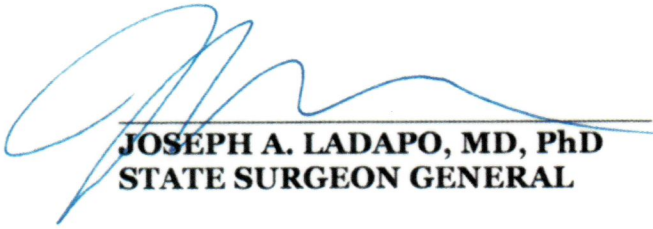
Section 893.055(3)(a), Florida Statutes, which requires dispensers to report controlled substance prescription data to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program within one business day, is likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency. The Department of Health authorizes a reporting extension in accordance with section 893.055(3)(a), Florida Statutes, for up to 30 days.

Section 5: Mobile Pharmacies and Prescription Department Managers

Section 465.022(11)(c), Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rule 64B16-28.113, which limit pharmacies and prescription department managers from operating in multiple or mobile locations, are likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency. The provisions of section 465.022(11)(c), Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rule 64B16-28.113 are hereby suspended for any pharmacy and prescription department manager while providing services necessary to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, or recover from the effects of this emergency.

The effective dates of this Emergency Order correspond with the effective dates of Executive Order 26-202, and any extension thereof.

Executed this 7th day of October 2026, in Department of Health Offices, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.



JOSEPH A. LADAPO, MD, PhD
STATE SURGEON GENERAL