

STATE OF ALABAMA
EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE STATE HEALTH OFFICER

Pursuant to the authority vested by *Code of Ala. 1975*, § 22-2-8, the State Health Officer issues this Emergency Order as follows:

WHEREAS, Hurricane Helene is anticipated to make landfall in Florida, and otherwise potentially impact this and other surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Florida has issued a mandatory evacuation for its residents, and these residents are anticipated to evacuate to the State of Alabama, and other neighboring states may issue mandatory evacuations in the coming days; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that displaced individuals from healthcare facilities in affected states will be placed in healthcare facilities licensed by the State Board of Health; and

WHEREAS, under the current emergency conditions, certain requirements of rules of the State Board of Health applicable to its licensed healthcare facilities are impractical and should be waived.

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordered that the following rules applicable to skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities (ALFs), and specialty care assisted living facilities (SCALFs) are waived:

1. Orders from a physician licensed in Alabama (orders from out-of-state physicians are acceptable);
2. Pre-admission screening and new physical examination for ALF and SCALF residents;
3. Pre-admission screening for mental illness; and
4. Two-step Tuberculosis screening as part of the admission process.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that rules regarding licensed bed capacity are modified to allow facilities that receive displaced individuals to exceed their licensed bed capacity.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any licensed healthcare facility that accepts displaced individuals shall immediately report same to the Alabama Department of Public Health's Bureau of Health Provider Standards.

This Emergency Order shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of the existence of the current emergency conditions.

Done on this 25 day of September, 2024.



Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Officer