

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIRECTIVE 2020-06

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, numerous counties in Florida have positive cases for COVID-19, and COVID-19 poses a risk to the entire state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-52 on March 9, 2020, pursuant to the authority vested in him by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution, the State Emergency Management Act, s. 252.31, Florida Statutes, *et al.*, as amended, and all other applicable laws, and declared a state of emergency for the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, in Executive Order Number 20-52, authorized each State agency to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute of that agency if strict compliance with that statute would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order Number 20-83 directing the Surgeon General to issue a public health advisory urging persons over the age of 65 and persons with serious underlying medical conditions that place them at a high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 to stay home and take other measures as necessary to limit their risk of exposure to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Number 20-83 directed the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer to issue a public health advisory urging those who can work remotely to do so; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order Number 20-91 directing all persons in Florida to limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or activities; and

WHEREAS, many businesses have been affected by COVID-19, impacting their ability to conduct business in this State; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Workers' Compensation is housed within the Department of Financial Services, an agency headed by the Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Workers' Compensation is charged with administering and enforcing the provisions of chapter 440, Florida Statutes, and the rules promulgated thereunder.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, JIMMY T. PATRONIS

JR., as Chief Financial Officer of Florida, by virtue of the authorities delegated to me by the Governor pursuant to his powers under Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Payments due under Rule 69L-6.025(2)(b), *Florida Administrative Code*, are hereby suspended under any “Payment Agreement Schedule for Periodic Payment of Penalty” entered between the Division and an employer to the extent payments are due during the month of April 2020 and any subsequent months covered by Section 4 of this Directive. Any payments suspended are hereby deferred; not waived. Upon conclusion of the timeframe covered in Section 4 of this Directive, regular monthly payments under the Payment Agreement Schedule for Periodic Payment of Penalty will resume, including those suspended by this Directive.

Section 2. The reinstatement of any Stop-Work Order under section 440.107(7), Florida Statutes, and Rule 69L-6.025(4), *Florida Administrative Code*, is hereby suspended, effective March 16, 2020, for the duration of the timeframes covered by Section 4 of this Directive.

Section 3. The specific requirement that informational brochures be mailed to injured workers pursuant to section 440.185(3), Florida Statutes, is hereby suspended. In lieu of mailing, carriers may comply with the brochure delivery

requirement by alternative delivery methods, including, without limitation, email or facsimile transmission, in order to meet the 3-day notification requirement under section 440.185(3), Florida Statutes.

Section 4. Except as otherwise provided above, this Directive shall remain in effect during the effective period of Executive Order 20-52 and any subsequent amendments thereof, unless earlier rescinded by the Chief Financial Officer.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, this 15th day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jimmy Patronis'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Signed, Jimmy T. Patronis, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida**