

**Blanket Extension of Licenses/Permits/Certifications
for Essential Environmental Health Facilities and Services
in Response to the Outbreak of COVID-19
in the State of Mississippi**

Effective April 1, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Tate Reeves issued Executive Order (EO) No. 1466 directing Mississippians to shelter in place apart from designated essential activities. EO 1466 instructs essential businesses and operations to remain open.

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recognizes the essential service provided by licensed drinking water operators and backflow prevention assembly testers (BPAT) in maintaining safe drinking water systems and supply for the public. MSDH further recognizes permitted retail and manufactured food facilities as essential components of the food supply chain. MSDH further recognizes the essential nature of certified boilers and pressure vessels in the safe operation of essential businesses and services identified in EO 1466.

MSDH is issuing blanket extensions for water operator and BPAT licenses.

MSDH is issuing blanket extensions for retail and manufactured food facility permits. Any invoices issued for retail or manufactured food permit renewal during this extension shall not be due so long as the extension is in effect.

MSDH is issuing blanket extensions for boiler and pressure vessel certifications. Any invoices issued for boiler and pressure vessel certification during this extension shall not be due so long as the extension is in effect.

These extensions do not waive the responsibility of individuals or facilities licensed, permitted, or certificated by MSDH to abide by or comply with any other state or federal regulation governing the proper execution of their duties or proper conduct of their business.

These blanket extensions are issued with a retroactive effective date of April 1, 2020 and shall be effective so long as EO 1466 is in effect.

Signed this tenth day of April 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dobbs".

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Health Officer