The Honorable Nandita Berry  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol Room 1E.8  
Austin, Texas  78701

Dear Madame Secretary:

Pursuant to his powers as the chief executive officer and governor of the State of Texas, Rick Perry has issued the following order:

Executive Order No. RP-79 to the creation of the Texas Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

The official copy of this order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Davidson  
Executive Clerk to the Governor  
GSD/gsd  
Attachment
Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
October 6, 2014

EXECUTIVE ORDER
RP 79

Relating to the creation of the Texas Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

WHEREAS, infectious diseases are responsible for more deaths worldwide than any other single cause; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas has a responsibility to safeguard and protect the health and well-being of its citizens from the spread of infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2014, the first case of Ebola diagnosed in the United States occurred in Dallas, Texas; and

WHEREAS, addressing infectious diseases requires the coordination and cooperation of multiple governmental entities at the local, state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, public health and medical preparedness and response guidelines are crucial to protect the safety and welfare of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Texas has nationally recognized infectious disease experts and other highly trained professionals across the state with the experience needed to minimize any potential risk to the people of Texas;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Perry, Governor of the State of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following:

1. Creation and Duties. The Texas Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response (the “Task Force”) is hereby created to:

   • Provide expert, evidence-based assessments, protocols and recommendations related to the current Ebola response and a strategic emergency management plan for the incident command team and their partners at the state and local level of government.

   • Develop a comprehensive plan to ensure Texas is prepared for the potential of widespread outbreak of infectious diseases, such as the Ebola virus and other emerging infectious diseases, and can provide rapid response that effectively protects the safety and well-being of Texans.
• Serve as a reliable and transparent source of information and education for Texas leadership and citizens.

The Task Force will establish this plan by:

• Using the significant expertise of medical professionals in Texas and elsewhere;
• Collaborating with local government officials and local health officials;
• Utilizing, where possible, the Texas Emergency Preparedness Plan and structure;
• Identifying the various responses necessary in the event of an epidemic of infectious disease;
• Establishing a command and control structure that will ensure effective preparations and response that may be included in Chapter 418 of the Government Code or related statutes and that also ensure the authority of a Governor to take emergency action as needed; and
• Coordinating with appropriate entities to ensure public awareness and education regarding any pandemic threat.

2. Composition and Terms. The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

Dr. Brett Giroir, Executive Vice President and CEO, Texas A&M Health Science Center, shall serve as the Director of the Texas Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

Other members include:

Dr. Gerald Parker, Vice President, Public Health Preparedness and Response, Texas A&M Health Science Center. Dr. Parker shall serve as the Deputy Director on the Task Force.

Dr. Tammy Beckham, Director, Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases, Texas A&M University.

Dr. Peter Hotez, Founding Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine; Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology; President, Sabin Vaccine Institute.

Richard Hyde, Executive Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Tim Irvine, Executive Director, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Dr. Kyle Janek, Executive Commissioner, Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
Nim Kidd, Division Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Dr. Thomas Ksiazek, Virologist and expert in the field of epidemiology/ecology and laboratory diagnosis of hemorrhagic fevers and arthropod-borne viral diseases, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Dr. David Lakey, Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services.

Dr. James LeDuc, Ph.D., Director, Galveston National Laboratory; professor of Microbiology and Immunology; Director, Program on Global Health, Institute for Human Infections and Immunity.

Dr. Scott Lilburn, Professor of Epidemiology and Assistant Dean, Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public Health.

Colonel Steve McCraw, Executive Director, Texas Department of Public Safety.

Major General John Nichols, Adjutant General, Texas National Guard.

Dr. Victoria Sutton, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development; Director, Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy, Texas Tech University School of Law.

Lt. General Joseph Weber, Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation.

Michael Williams, Commissioner, Texas Education Agency.

The Governor may fill any vacancy that may occur and may appoint other members as needed. All appointees serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Any state or local employees appointed to serve on the Task Force shall do so in addition to the regular duties of their respective office or position.

3. Report. The Task Force shall make written reports on its findings and recommendations, including legislative recommendations, to the Governor and the Legislature. The first report is due by December 1, 2014, which should include preliminary recommendations that require legislative action. A second report is due by February 1, 2015, and should contain, in part, any additional recommendations for legislative action during the 2015 legislative session. The Task Force may issue other regular reports as it deems necessary.

4. Meetings. The Task Force shall meet at times and locations as determined by the Director. The Task Force may meet telephonically. The Task Force may hold public hearings to gather information; when conducting public hearings the Task Force shall meet in various parts of Texas to encourage local input. The Task Force also may meet in executive session to discuss matters that are deemed confidential by state or federal statutes or to ensure public security or law enforcement needs.
5. **Administrative Support.** The state agencies involved shall provide administrative support for the Task Force.

6. **Other Provisions.** The Task Force shall adhere to guidelines and procedures prescribed by the Office of the Governor. All Task Force members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for travel expenses.

7. **Effective Date.** This order shall take effect immediately.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders inconsistent with its terms and shall remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded or superseded by me or by a succeeding Governor.

Given under my hand this the 6th day of October, 2014.

![Signature]

RICK PERRY
Governor

Attested by:

![Signature]

NANDITA BERRY
Secretary of State