

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-02-19

**WHEREAS** California faces serious health challenges rooted in early social determinants of health; and

**WHEREAS** these challenges are not only serious but inequitable, disproportionately impacting low-income Californians and communities of color; and

**WHEREAS** some of the most pernicious, but least addressed, health challenges are the upstream factors that eventually become chronic and acute conditions that are far more difficult and expensive to treat; and

**WHEREAS** the overwhelming scientific consensus is that these upstream factors, including toxic stress and the social determinants of health, are the root causes of many of the most harmful and persistent health challenges facing Californians; and

**WHEREAS** California is home to many of the world's leading experts on proactively addressing these root causes, including State and local health officials; and

**WHEREAS** these experts are endeavoring to identify and implement solutions proven successful by our best science; and

**WHEREAS** medical and policy experts cannot effectively do this work alone—they must leverage the expertise of Californians whose lived experience is critical to the development of working solutions; and

**WHEREAS** it is time that California appoints a leader who can marshal the insights and energy of medical professionals, public health experts, public servants, and everyday Californians to solve our most pressing health challenges with surgical focus.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this Order to become effective immediately.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that there is established the position of Surgeon General, a public entity within the Governor's direct executive authority.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Surgeon General shall advise the Governor on a comprehensive approach to addressing health risks and challenges as effectively and as early as possible.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Surgeon General shall marshal the insights and energy of medical professionals, scientists and other academic experts, public health experts, public servants, and everyday Californians to solve our most pressing public health challenges.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Surgeon General shall be a key spokesperson on public health issues throughout the State of California by providing Californians with the best medical and scientific evidence

through public health reports and other tools of communicating widely to the public.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Surgeon General shall have the following qualifications:

- Physician licensed to practice in California;
- Exceptional communicator across multiple platforms, including scientific and community forums, policy-making venues, and traditional and digital media;
- Recognized thought-leader in addressing the root causes of health disparities; and
- Demonstrated commitment to increasing the power and voice of those who are disproportionately experiencing the ill effects of the social determinants of health.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the inaugural Surgeon General shall be appointed by no later than February 1, 2019.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order shall be filed with the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice shall be given to this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or a procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 7th day of January 2019.



  
GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

  
ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State