



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
**Office of the Secretary**

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

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**Eric C. Friedlander**  
Acting Secretary

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On March 6, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear signed Executive Order 2020-215 declaring a state of emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 2020-215 and pursuant to the authority of KRS Chapter 39A, KRS 194A.025, and KRS 214.020, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Office of Inspector General in collaboration with the Department for Public Health, hereby issues the following directive to improve access to controlled substances for long-term care residents in need:

**Background: 902 KAR 55:070 establishes requirements related to the placement of emergency medication kits with controlled substances in long-term care facilities.**

**Temporary Exception: To help ensure that sufficient controlled substances are available in an emergency and upon the prescription order of an authorized practitioner when medications cannot be obtained from the pharmacy in a timely manner, the Cabinet grants the following exception from the quantity limitation established by 902 KAR 55:070, Section 2(6):**

**Emergency medication kits may be stocked with six (6) multi-dose packages in the smallest unit that is commercially available. This temporary waiver from the current limit of two (2) multi-dose packages shall remain in effect until the expiration of the State of Emergency under Executive Order 2020-215.**

The Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has been designated by the Governor to deliver these directives during the current public health crisis.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will continue to provide information and updates to healthcare providers during this public health emergency.

Respectfully,

  
Eric Friedlander  
Acting Secretary

  
Adam Mather  
Inspector General