



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 20-05 and
RESCINDING PROCLAMATION 20-65, et seq.**

20-65.6

Long Term Care – Workers, Facilities, and Resources

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, I have subsequently issued several amendatory proclamations, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease, caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic, has broadly spread throughout Washington State and remains a significant health risk to all of our people, especially members of our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression in Washington State continue to threaten the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State, and remain a public disaster affecting life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, there is an increased risk of rapid spread of COVID-19 among persons who live and work in congregate settings, and many residents and workers at long-term care facilities are at increased risk for severe COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, to mitigate the increased risk of rapid spread of COVID-19 among residents and workers, congregate living facilities have increased physical distancing protocols, heightened screening upon entrance and exit, instituted more intensive cleaning protocols, and taken a variety of other measures; and

WHEREAS, long-term care workers are required to complete specific training, testing and

certification requirements by dates certain, yet necessary class offerings, testing opportunities, and certification processing have been disrupted and cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating the long-term care worker shortage throughout Washington State; and

WHEREAS, to maintain availability of facilities, staffing, and resources in our congregate living system at levels necessary to safely provide essential services during the current COVID-19 pandemic, agencies and other entities operating congregate living facilities have utilized a variety of interim licenses, waiver of certain certification, inspection, administrative requirements, and other programs that are temporary in nature; and

WHEREAS, to prevent expiration of these temporary programs and the resulting loss of necessary facilities, staffing, and resources, I previously issued several Proclamations waiving and suspending specified statutes and rules relating to facilities, staffing, and resources at congregate living and care facilities and other related subjects, including Proclamation 20-52 et seq., which incorporated Proclamations 20-06, 20-10, 20-16, 20-17, and 20-18, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, because the waivers, suspensions and prohibitions contained in Proclamation 20-52, et seq., addresses a variety of topics some of which are also addressed by other proclamations, orders and guidance documents, I issued Proclamations 20-65, 20-66, and 20-74 dividing some of the waivers, suspensions and prohibitions into their topical areas and cross-reference applicable orders and guidance documents, to assist in the understanding, administration and implementation of those waivers, suspensions and prohibitions; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions, and prohibitions, contained in Proclamations 20-52 and 20-65, et seq., have been periodically extended by statute, and subsequently extended by legislative action; and

WHEREAS, although COVID-19 continues as an ongoing and present threat in Washington State, the measures we have taken together as Washingtonians over the past 27 months, including the willingness of most Washingtonians to take advantage of the remarkable, life-saving vaccines being administered throughout the state, have made a difference and have altered the course of the pandemic in fundamental ways; and

WHEREAS, while COVID-19 appears to be here to stay, recent advances in medicine, including the availability of COVID-19 boosters, vaccines for children 6 months and older, and antivirals are reasons to be hopeful that we will have the tools to protect ourselves and communities from severe disease and death to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, although Department of Health statistics reflect the continued persistence of COVID-19 and support the continuation of the state of emergency, health experts and epidemiological modeling experts believe that as a state we have made adequate progress

against COVID-19 to rescind and/or modify amendatory proclamations related to specific health issues; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Department of Social and Health Services have worked diligently to establish a glidepath for licensed health care facilities and professionals to come back into compliance with statutes and rules that were waived or suspended in Proclamations 20-65, et seq., and 20-52, et seq., and the Department of Health will strongly encourage boards and commissions with independent authority to impose continuing education requirements to adopt the same approach to promote consistency across all health professions; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health continues to maintain a Public Health Incident Management Team in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center and other supporting state agencies to manage the public health aspects of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, through the State Emergency Operations Center, continues coordinating resources across state government to support the Department of Health and local health officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continues coordinating with the Department of Health in assessing the impacts and long-term effects of the incident on Washington State and its people; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State, that Proclamation 20-05 and all amendments thereto remain in effect as otherwise amended, and that Proclamation 20-65, et seq., is terminated and rescinded effective 12:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022.

I again direct that the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented throughout state government. State agencies and departments are directed to continue utilizing state resources and doing everything reasonably possible to support implementation of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I continue to order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General to address the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department in addressing the outbreak. Additionally, I continue to direct the Department of Health, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division,

