



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

**EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 20-05, and
RESCINDING PROCLAMATION 20-24, et seq.**

20-24.4

Restrictions on Non-Urgent Medical Procedures

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout Washington State 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 and our health care system, 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, including issuance of Proclamation 20-25, et seq., which limit Washingtonians' ability to participate in certain activities unless certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS, during early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, health professionals and epidemiological modeling experts indicated that the spread of COVID-19, if left unchecked, threatened to overwhelm portions of Washington's public and private health-care system; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-24 prohibiting all hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities, dental, orthodontic and endodontic offices in Washington State from providing most non-urgent medical and dental procedures; and

WHEREAS, I subsequently issued Proclamations 20-24.1, 20-24.2 and 20-24.3 on May 18, 2020, November 25, 2020, and January 13, 2022, respectively, permitting the provision of non-urgent medical and dental procedures, subject to certain conditions; 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, on July 18, 2022, hospital officials reported an ongoing concern with hospital capacity, citing the primary causes as a lack of staff, a growing number of difficult-to-discharge patients, and the need for legislation to amend guardianship rules for the transfer of certain patients out of hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has 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 Proclamation 20-24 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Washington National Guard and State Guard continue to support the Washington State COVID-19 pandemic response, and have personnel available to help alleviate some hospital staffing and capacity shortfalls; 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 state 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 and order that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State, that Proclamation 20-05, as amended, remains in effect, and that Proclamation 20-24, et seq., is terminated and rescinded effective at 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, and other agencies to identify and provide appropriate personnel for conducting necessary and ongoing incident related assessments.

Violators of this order may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5).

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 29th day of July, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty-Two at Olympia, Washington.

By:

Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Secretary of State