



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 20-05 AND RESCINDING 20-82, et seq.**

20-82.2

**Delaying Implementation of RCW 70A.530.020 -
Single-Use Plastic Bags**

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout Washington State of 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 worldwide spread of COVID-19, the high risk it posed and continues to pose to vulnerable populations, its spread and continued persistence in Washington State, and the unprecedented nature of the emergency, I subsequently issued numerous amendatory proclamations, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220, that prohibited certain activities and waived and suspended specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, although the COVID-19 disease continues to persist as an ongoing and present threat in Washington State, the measures we have taken together as Washingtonians over the past 15 months, including the willingness of 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, over the past 16 months, health experts and epidemiological modeling experts, including those at the Department of Health, the United States Center for Disease Control, and our state universities, have gained critical knowledge regarding the spread of COVID-19, including a better understanding of the risks associated with certain activities and the measures that can be taken to reduce those risks; 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 begin rescinding or modifying amendatory proclamations related to specific health issues; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken to combat its spread and severity have had profound, varied, and lasting impacts on our state, including

economic, educational, and societal impacts, and those impacts will fade at different rates for different people; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Proclamation 20-82, first issued December 18, 2020, waived the January 1, 2021, implementation date of RCW 70A.530.020, which places limitations on retail establishments' provision of paper and plastic bags to customers. I waived this statute's implementation because, due to COVID-19, retail establishments had challenges obtaining ample supplies of reusable plastic bags to meet consumer demand. Those challenges have since passed.

WHEREAS, Emergency Proclamation 20-82, et seq., is set to expire at the termination of the underlying Emergency Proclamation, 20-05, unless otherwise rescinded, but it is appropriate to rescind Proclamation 20-82, et seq., at this time; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its persistence 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, 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.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay R. Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, terminate and rescind Emergency Proclamation 20-82, et seq., pursuant to RCW 43.06.210, effective at 11:59 p.m. September 30, 2021.

I continue to 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.

As a result of this event, 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

