

JAY INSLEE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
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## **PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR**

**20-05.1**

### **Terminating the COVID-19 State of Emergency**

**WHEREAS**, On January 21, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in Snohomish County, Washington, and local health departments and the Washington State Department of Health worked to identify, contact, and test others in Washington State potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and

**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 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 statutory and regulatory obligations and limitations; 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 31 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 bivalent COVID-19 boosters for people 5 years and older and vaccines for children 6 months and older, as well as treatments like 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 in the state, including continued hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19, health experts and epidemiological modeling experts believe that as a state we have made adequate progress against COVID-19 to end the state of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of Health's face covering order, issued under public health authorities provided by RCW 43.70.130, RCW 70.05.070, and WAC 246-100-036, will remain in effect until public health authorities determine it is no longer necessary for control of transmission of SARS-CoV-2; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Department of Health will continue to monitor COVID-19 disease activity in the state and carry out public health activities that help prevent severe disease and death from COVID-19.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, and under Chapter 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that, although the threat of COVID-19 remains in all counties in the state of Washington, a State of Emergency Proclamation is no longer necessary to continue to respond to this disease.

As a result, I hereby declare the termination of the state of emergency proclaimed in Proclamation 20-05 and rescind and terminate Proclamation 20-05, and I also hereby rescind all COVID-19 emergency proclamations issued pursuant to Proclamation 20-05, effective October 31, 2022, at 11:59 PM.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 28th day of October, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty-Two at Olympia, Washington.

By:

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/s/  
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

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/s/  
Secretary of State