PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 20-05, 20-12, et seq., AND 20-25, et seq.

20-12.6

Higher Education

Termination of Emergency Proclamation

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 persistence in Washington State, and the high risk it continues to pose 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, public and private universities, colleges, community colleges, and technical colleges made tremendous efforts to continue to function through remote learning, in-person learning benefits Washington; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, it was necessary to issue emergency proclamations to address the spread of the disease in institutions of higher educations; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and pursuant to Emergency Proclamation 20-05.1, and under Chapter 43.06 RCW, do hereby rescind and terminate Proclamation 20-12 et seq., effective October 31, 2022, at 11:59 PM.

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

By:

/s/ Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/ Secretary of State