



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 20-05 AND 21-08**

**21-08.2
Safe Workers**

Terminating 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 the state of Washington; 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, continues to persist in the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, certain workers are exempt from the state Minimum Wage Act and as a result lack employment protections afforded others under the state's paid sick leave laws ([RCW 49.46](#) and [WAC 296-128](#)); and

WHEREAS, further, workers covered by the state's paid sick leave laws may have exhausted all accrued paid time and may face continued employment disruptions as a result of COVID-19 related quarantine, and isolation or vaccination; and

WHEREAS, in response to the pandemic, it was necessary to issue emergency proclamations to help protect workers; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 5254, which protects a worker's right to wear a face covering during a public health emergency, and this protection is now codified at RCW 49.17.485; and, additionally, the Department of Labor and Industries has taken action to ensure workers can continue to voluntarily wear face coverings in most situations; 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 21-08 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