

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 20-05 and 21-14, et seq.

21-14.6 COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENT Termination of Emergency Order

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; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccines are effective in reducing infection and serious disease, and widespread vaccination is the primary means we have as a state to protect everyone, including persons who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, young children who are not eligible to receive a vaccine, immunocompromised individuals, and vulnerable persons including persons in health care facilities, long-term care facilities and other congregate care facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of every employer to protect the health and safety of employees by establishing and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment and by requiring all employees to comply with health and safety measures; and

WHEREAS, to further our individual and collective duty to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, I issued Proclamation 21-14 requiring all employees, on-site independent contractors, volunteers, goods and services providers, and appointees of designated state agencies to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 on or before October 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2021, I issued Proclamation 20-12.4 prohibiting institutions of higher education from providing in-person instruction unless the institutions comply with specific requirements related to vaccination, masking, and operations; and

WHEREAS, some employers have chosen to implement a vaccination requirement as a condition of employment, subject to all applicable exemptions and accommodations required by law, even after the COVID-19 State of Emergency is lifted; and

WHEREAS, although the COVID-19 disease continues to persist as an ongoing and present threat in Washington, the measures we have taken together as Washingtonians over the past 31 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, 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, for those persons who are able to be vaccinated, getting fully vaccinated and remaining up to date with all recommended boosters remains the most effective tool to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

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 21-14 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/
BY THE GOVERNOR:	
/s/ Secretary of State	