



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 20-05 and
RESCINDING PROCLAMATION 20-59, et seq.**

20-59.9

Department of Health – Temporary Practice Permits

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 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 broadly spread throughout Washington State and remains a significant health risk to all of our people, especially members of our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, to remove barriers to adding health care staffing capacity to meet the demands of the COVID-19 response I issued Proclamation 20-59, waiving and suspending statutes and prohibiting certain activities relating to the licensing of workers in the healthcare industry, and the provisions of Proclamation 20-59 have been periodically extended pursuant to statute and by legislative action; 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 27 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 COVID-19 boosters, vaccines for children 6 months and older, and

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 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 rescind and/or modify amendatory proclamations related to specific health issues; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has worked diligently to establish a glidepath for licensed health care facilities and many health care professionals to come back into compliance with statutes and rules that were waived or suspended in response to the pandemic, and the Department will strongly encourage boards and commissions with independent authority to impose continuing education requirements to adopt the same approach to promote consistency across all health professions; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health indicates that cases of COVID-19 in Washington State and associated deaths continue to increase, demonstrating the ongoing, present threat of this lethal disease; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression 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 Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State, that Proclamation 20-05 and all amendments thereto remain in effect, and that Proclamation 20-59, et seq., is terminated and rescinded effective 12:01 AM on October 27, 2022.

I again 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

