JAY INSLEE
Governor

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 20-05 and 20-58, et seq.

20-58.6
Employment Security Department– Shared Work Requirements

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, as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on Washington State, many members of our workforce are suffering significant economic hardship, and in some cases their financial resources are becoming severely limited; and

WHEREAS, the Employment Security Department is responsible for administering the unemployment insurance program in Washington State, and on May 3, 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor issued Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 21-20, which states that, although shared work benefits are being fully paid for by the federal government starting with weeks of unemployment beginning on or after March 27, 2020, and ending on or before December 31, 2020, states may choose to charge or not charge employers on a state level for the shared work benefits paid, but this choice must be permissible under the state's law; and

WHEREAS, to remove barriers to partial employment of those members of our workforce whose lives have been impacted by layoffs resulting from the economic downturn and the closure of businesses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to waive certain statutory provisions related to shared work to provide financial relief to encourage employers to provide shared work programs; and

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

WHEREAS, I issued Proclamation 20-58, waiving and suspending statutes and prohibiting certain activities relating to shared work and unemployment insurance; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-58, et seq., have been periodically extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives, and which I have acknowledged and similarly extended in subsequent sequentially numbered proclamations; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-58, et seq., were extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or 11:59 p.m. on December 21, 2020; 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 remains 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, as amended, remains in effect, and that Proclamations 20-05 and 20-58, et seq., are amended to recognize the extension of statutory waivers and suspensions therein by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or 11:59 p.m. on December 21, 2020, whichever occurs first.

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 possible to support implementation of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this event, I continue to order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General to address the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department in addressing the outbreak. Additionally, I continue to direct the Department of Health, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division and other agencies to identify and provide appropriate personnel for conducting necessary and ongoing incident related assessments.

Violators of this order may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5).

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 8th day of December, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State