JAY INSLEE
Governor

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONs 20-05, 20-06, 20-10, 20-16, 20-17, and 20-18

20-52
Extending
Statewide Orders Relating to Long-Term Care

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington 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 amendatory Proclamations 20-06 through 20-51 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, has broadly spread throughout Washington State, seriously increasing the threat of serious associated health risks statewide; and

WHEREAS, there is an increased risk of rapid transmission and spread of COVID-19 among those living in congregate settings, such as long term care facilities, and most residents of long term care or treatment facilities are at increased risk for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, infected facility staff and visitors can introduce a virus such as COVID-19 into the population of a long term care facility and start an outbreak threatening the life, health and safety of residents; and

WHEREAS, the threat of COVID-19 to our most vulnerable populations remains significant, especially for those receiving long-term care services in their homes and congregate settings such as long term care facilities; and

WHEREAS, there are currently at least 12,494 cases of COVID-19 in Washington State with 692 associated deaths, hospitalizations for COVID-19-like illnesses have sharply increased in the past month, and a large surge in the number of serious COVID-19 infections will compromise the ability of our health care system to deliver necessary health care services; and

WHEREAS, an adequate number of long term care workers is necessary to provide essential services to some of Washington's most vulnerable adults and the COVID-19 pandemic has

significantly reduced the availability of long term care workers in the State, necessitating the waiver of certain fingerprint requirements to address delays resulting from interruptions in operations by third party vendors; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted other disruptions to our long term care system impacting adequate staffing, the ability to safely conduct inspections, and obtaining resident assessments prior to admission; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-06 prohibiting visitors access to nursing homes and assisted living facilities and waiving related statutes; on March 13, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-10 expanding the prohibitions and waivers of Proclamation 20-06 to adult family homes and addressing a long term care worker shortage; on March 16, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-16 expanding the prohibitions and waivers of Proclamations 20-06 and 20-10 to additional long term care facilities and prohibiting all visitors; on March 17, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-17 amending Proclamations 20-06, 20-10 and 20-16 further expanding their prohibitions and waivers to additional long term care facilities; and on March 18, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-18 authorizing expansion of eligibility for the Family Emergency Assistance Program and waiving certain statutory provisions to address a long term care worker shortage and other disruptions to the long term care system.

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamations 20-06, 20-10, 20-16, 20-17 and 20-18 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 May 9, 2020, whichever occurs first; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression in Washington State continues 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 and all amendments thereto remain in effect as otherwise amended, and that Proclamations 20-05, 20-06, 20-10, 20-16, 20-17, and 20-18 are amended to (1) 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 May 9, 2020, whichever occurs first, and (2) similarly extend the prohibitions therein to May 9, 2020.

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.

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 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 23rd day of April, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State