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

20-83

Restrictions on Travelers from Countries where the SARS-CoV-2 Variant 501Y.V is Circulating

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 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, I issued Proclamations 20-25, et seq., first entitled "Stay Home – Stay Healthy," in which I initially prohibited all people in Washington State from leaving their homes except under certain circumstances, which I later amended to "Safe Start – Stay Healthy" County-By-County Phased Reopening, gradually relaxing those limitations based on county-by-county phasing, and on November 16, 2020 again amended 20-25, et seq., to "Stay Safe – Stay Healthy – Rollback of County-By-County Phased Reopening Responding to a COVID-19 Outbreak Surge," in response to a large surge of new cases of COVID-19, increased hospitalizations and ongoing COVID-19-related deaths in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, despite this guidance, COVID-19-related cases, hospitalizations and deaths have remained very high, putting our people, our health system, and our economy in as dangerous a position as we faced in March 2020; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that the virus can be spread through very small droplets called aerosols that are expelled from our mouths when we breathe, talk, sing, vocalize, cough, or sneeze, that these aerosols linger in air, and that a significant risk factor for spreading the virus is prolonged, close contact with an infected person indoors, especially in poorly ventilated spaces; and

WHEREAS, several factors increase the risk for person-to-person COVID-19 transmission; such factors include (1) the more that people and groups interact, (2) the longer those interactions last, (3) the closer the contact between individuals, and (4) the denser the occupancy for indoor facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have provided health and safety guidance to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19

generally and in specific sectors, environments, and settings, yet many individuals continue to disregard this guidance, and person-to-person interactions, including gatherings, have led to many infections and are an important factor in the dangerous increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations currently being experienced in Washington; and

WHEREAS, a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, 501Y.V, has been identified in the United Kingdom, South Africa and possibly other countries, which may be more transmissible than other variants; and

WHEREAS, to reduce chances of introduction of the SARS-CoV-2 variant 501Y.V into our State's population, and to control the potential for further increasing the already severe numbers of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths we are currently facing, it is necessary to immediately prohibit from entering the State of Washington individuals who have been in any country where the SARS-CoV-2 variant 501Y.V has been circulating, including but not limited to the United Kingdom and South Africa, unless certain protective conditions have been met; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, 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 and remains a significant health risk to all of our people, especially among our most vulnerable populations; 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; and

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 and order 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, to help preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace, pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(1)(h), I amend Proclamation 20-05 to prohibit travel to the State of Washington as set out below.

FURTHERMORE, pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(1)(h), I hereby prohibit any individual who has been present within the prior 14 days in any country where the SARS-CoV-2 variant 501Y.V is circulating, as listed on the Department of Health's website, including but not limited to the United Kingdom and South Africa, from entering or being present in the State of Washington unless they quarantine until fourteen days (14) after arriving in the State of Washington. Flight crew are exempt from this proclamation.

ADDITIONALLY, an individual is permitted to leave quarantine to do the following, provided that they avoid public transportation and ride-share services, wear a face covering, separate themselves from other people to the greatest extent reasonably possible, and follow other appropriate social distancing measures:

- As necessary, travel to and between a health care facility, their home, their place of residence, or an authorized quarantine facility;
- Obtain necessary medical care and COVID-19 testing, provided that they first make reasonable efforts to contact a health care provider before they leave quarantine; and
- Obtain necessary medications and supplies and services for family or household members and pets, such as groceries, food, and supplies for household consumption and use and products necessary to maintain safety, sanitation, and essential maintenance of the home or residence, provided that they first exhaust all reasonable alternatives, including, but not limited to, purchasing products online or by phone and having them delivered to their home or residence, asking for help from family, friends, or acquaintances, or contacting government or non-profit agencies for assistance.

ADDITIONALLY, an individual is also permitted and urged to leave quarantine if their home or place of residence is unsafe or becomes unsafe. When the individual's safety is secured, the individual is encouraged to contact an appropriate government agency for assistance in securing an alternate quarantine site.

ADDITIONALLY, these individuals are also strongly encouraged to get tested at least seven (7) days after entering Washington state.

FURTHERMORE, in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Health, in furtherance of the physical, mental, and economic well-being of all Washingtonians, I will continue to analyze the data and epidemiological modeling and adjust guidance accordingly.

ADDITIONALLY, as a reminder, a travel advisory for all non-essential travel, issued on November 13, 2020, remains in effect. That advisory provides the following guidance:

1. Persons arriving in Washington from other states or countries, including returning Washington residents, should self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival. These persons should limit their interactions to their immediate household; and
2. Washingtonians are encouraged to stay home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries.

ADDITIONALLY, in furtherance of these prohibitions and for general awareness:

1. *Order of the Secretary of Health 20-03.1*, issued on July 24, 2020, is incorporated by reference, and as amended.
2. Employers must comply with all conditions for operation required by the state Department of Labor & Industries, including interpretive guidance, regulations and rules such as WAC 296-800-14035, and Department of Labor & Industries-administered statutes.
3. Everyone is required to cooperate with public health authorities in the investigation of cases, suspected cases, outbreaks, and suspected outbreaks of COVID-19 and with the implementation of infection control measures pursuant to State Board of Health rule in WAC 246-101-425.
4. Additional guidelines for travel may be found at the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website.

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 order may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5). Further, if people fail to comply with the required social distancing and other protective measures while engaging in this phased reopening, I may be forced to reinstate the prohibitions established in earlier proclamations.

Unless extended or amended, this proclamation will continue to be in effect until the state of emergency, issued on February 29, 2020, pursuant to Proclamation 20-05, is rescinded.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 21st day of December, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State