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 PROCLAMATION 20-05

20-30
Unemployment Benefits Job Search 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 amendatory Proclamations 20-06, 20-07, 20-08, 20-09, 20-10, 20-11, 20-12, 20-13, 20-14, 20-15, 20-16, 20-17, 20-18, 20-19, 20-20, 20-21, 20-22, 20-23, 20-24, 20-25, 20-26, 20-27, 20-28, and 20-29, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by 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, significantly increasing the threat of serious associated health risks statewide; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is causing a sustained global, national and statewide economic slowdown, resulting in layoffs and reduced work hours for a significant percentage of Washington State's workforce and reductions in business activity impacting our commercial sectors that support our State's economic vitality, including severe impacts to the large number of small businesses that make Washington State's economy thrive; 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, it is necessary to waive certain statutory provisions related to obtaining unemployment benefits to assist the Washington State Employment Security Department in providing immediate financial support to those members of our workforce whose lives have been impacted by layoffs resulting from the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, requiring unemployed Washington workers to search for work in order to maintain unemployment benefit eligibility is counterproductive to the state's efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, and can be futile given the economic slowdown and reduction in business activity; 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, and that Proclamation 20-05 is amended to waive or suspend specified statutes that prevent, hinder or delay necessary action by the Washington State Employment Security Department in providing unemployment compensation to the significant number people in Washington State suffering from layoffs resulting from the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

FURTHERMORE, based on the above situation and under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(2)(g), I also find that strict compliance with the following statutory obligations or limitations will prevent, hinder or delay necessary action by the Washington State Employment

Security Department in providing unemployment compensation to the significant number of people in Washington State suffering from layoffs resulting from the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and that, for claims filed on or after March 8, 2020, the following specific statutory provisions are hereby waived and suspended until midnight on April 24, 2020:

1. RCW 50.20.010(1)(c)(i) – the following language only: "and must be actively seeking work pursuant to customary trade practices and through other methods when so directed by the commissioner or the commissioner's agents"; and

2. RCW 50.20.240 – in its entirety.

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 25th day of March, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State