JAY INSLEE
Governor

STATE OF WASHINGTON
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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING AND EXTENDING
PROCLAMATIONS 20-05, 20-28, 20-28.1 and 28.2

20-28.3
Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act

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 20-53 and 20-55, 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 are currently at least 17,122 cases of COVID-19 in Washington State with 945 associated deaths, demonstrating the ongoing, present, and persistent threat of this lethal disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-28, waiving and suspending laws and rules concerning RCW 42.56, the Public Records Act, and RCW 42.30, the Open Public Meetings Act, that require any activity that occurs in an in-person setting to prevent further spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-28 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 4, 2020, whichever occurs first; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-28.1 acknowledging 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 4, 2020, whichever occurs first, and similarly extending its prohibitions; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamations 20-28 were again 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 31, 2020, whichever occurs first, with the exception of RCW 42.56.520(1), which the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives extended until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or May 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-28.2 acknowledging 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 31, 2020, whichever occurs first, and similarly extending its prohibitions, with the exception of RCW 42.56.520(1), which I extended to May 11, 2020, as authorized by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waiver and suspension of RCW 42.56.520(1) in Proclamation 20-28 was again 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 31, 2020; provided, that the waiver of RCW 42.56.520(1) does not apply to requests for public records received by an agency electronically; 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 20-28 and 20-28.1, 20-28.2 are amended to recognize the extension of the statutory waiver and suspension of RCW 42.56.520(1) by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2020, except that the extension of the waiver and suspension of language in RCW 42.56.520(1) will not apply to 5-day response requirements under the statute for public records requests received by an agency electronically.

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 12th day of May, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State