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

20-21
Unemployment Benefit - 1 Week Waiver

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout 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, 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, and 20-20, 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, significantly increasing the threat of serious associated health risks statewide; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is causing a sustained global economic slowdown, which is causing an economic downturn in Washington State resulting in layoffs and reduced work hours for a significant percentage of our 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, to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Washington State and to protect our most vulnerable populations, it is necessary to limit person to person contact in Washington State, resulting in many businesses greatly reducing operations or closing and laying off employees; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic, certain Washington businesses and employees are suffering significant economic hardship, and in some cases their financial resources are becoming limited; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Employment Security is responsible for administering the unemployment compensation provisions applicable to laid off employees who are being adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, RCW 50.20.010(1)(d) requires an unemployed individual to be unemployed for a waiting period of one week before being eligible to receive unemployment benefits; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression throughout 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 (DOH) 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 this ongoing 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 DOH and local health officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continues coordinating with the DOH in assessing the impacts and long-term effects of the incident on Washington State and its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor 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 Washington State counties, that Proclamations 20-05 and all amendments thereto remain in effect, and that Proclamation 20-05 is amended to waive and suspend the statutory requirement that a person must be unemployed for one week before they can receive unemployment benefits, as provided herein.

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. Also, I continue to direct the DOH, 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 noted situation and under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(2)(g), I also find that strict compliance with the following statutory and regulatory obligations or limitations will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action for coping with the COVID-19 State of Emergency in the provision of unemployment compensation for impacted employees, and that, for claims filed on or after March 8, 2020, the following language of each statutory provision as specified below is hereby immediately waived and suspended until midnight on April 17, 2020:

1. RCW 50.20.010(1)(d) -- Benefit Eligibility Conditions (the following language only)
   "He or she has been unemployed for a waiting period of one week."

2. RCW 50.20.020 – Waiting Period Credit Limitation

   "No week shall be counted as a waiting period week, (1) if benefits have been paid with respect thereto, and (2) unless the individual was otherwise eligible for benefits with respect thereto, and (3) unless it occurs within the benefit year which includes the week with respect to which he or she claims payment of benefits."

3. RCW 50.20.140 - Filing applications and claims—Definitions (the following language only)

   "The term 'claim for waiting period' shall mean a certification, after the close of a given week, that the requirements stated herein for eligibility for waiting period have been met."

4. WAC 192-110-005(4) (the following language only)

   "Will I receive benefits immediately? The first week you are eligible for benefits is your waiting week. You will not be paid for this week. However, you must file a claim for this week before we can pay you any benefits for future weeks."

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 18th day of March, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State