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 AND 20-12

20-12.1
Higher Education – Fall 2020

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 through 20-53 and 20-55 through 20-59, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations, including issuance of Proclamations 20-25, et seq., prohibiting all people in Washington State from leaving their homes except to participate in certain permitted activities, within the limitations therein; 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 and remains a significant health risk to all of our people, especially members of our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, during early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, health professionals and epidemiological modeling experts indicated that the spread of COVID-19, if left unchecked, threatened to overwhelm portions of Washington's public and private health-care system; and

WHEREAS, health professionals and epidemiological modeling experts indicated that continued normal operation of public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs could increase the spread of COVID-19 throughout Washington and would increase the threat to our residents and our health system; and

WHEREAS, many public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs recognized the risk of continued in-person classes and unilaterally moved to remote instruction or implemented alternative learning options to address physical distancing recommendations; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2010, I issued Proclamation 20-12 prohibiting public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs from conducting in-person classroom instruction and lectures related to all educational and apprenticeship related programs; and

WHEREAS, the prohibitions in Proclamation 20-12 expired on April 24, 2020, but public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs have remained in modified operation, including remote learning and certain programs for essential workers; and

WHEREAS, Washington's public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs are an important part of our economy and are vital to the educational, social, and economic needs of Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, using remote learning to replace most classroom instruction creates challenges to access for many Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, the progression of COVID-19 in Washington State shows racial disparities in health impacts which are likely to increase racial disparities in access and success in post-secondary education requiring the State and all of our campuses and programs to understand how these challenges affect our students and to work to minimize these impacts; and

WHEREAS, although public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs have made tremendous efforts to continue to function through remote learning, returning to campus and these facilities as soon as can be safely accomplished will benefit Washington; and

WHEREAS, although the Department of Health indicates that COVID-19 is an ongoing, present threat in Washington State, health professionals and epidemiological modeling experts predict that we have made adequate progress against COVID-19 to plan for a return to campus at our public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs in fall 2020; and

WHEREAS, the nature of COVID-19 viral transmission, including both asymptomatic and symptomatic spread as well as the relatively high infectious nature, suggests it is appropriate to physically return to campus and programs at public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs only through a science-based approach the incorporates safety, sanitation, and physical distancing guidelines; and

WHEREAS, public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs need sufficient time to prepare to restart in-person instruction and to provide information to students, family, faculty and employees regarding the measures taken to provide a safe learning environment; and

WHEREAS, public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs will continue to need to prepare to be flexible to

pivot in whole or in part to remote learning if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in their county or within their educational community;

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 Department of Health indicates that cases of COVID-19 in Washington State and associated deaths continue to increase, demonstrating the ongoing, present threat of this lethal disease; 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 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 as otherwise amended, and that, to help preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(1)(h), Proclamations 20-05 and 20-25, et seq., (as otherwise amended) continue in effect except as amended herein, to allow for a physical return to campuses and programs at public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs in fall 2020 provided certain requirements are and continue to be satisfied.

FURTHERMORE, until there is an effective vaccine, effective treatment or herd immunity, it is crucial, and therefore ordered, that beginning on August 1, 2020, public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and similar schools and programs may resume general instruction, to include in-person classroom instruction, lectures and similar educational gatherings, only if they implement, follow, and enforce the requirements specified below. **NOTE: These requirements are specific to general instruction at public or private higher education facilities regardless of what phase or county they are in. Higher education facilities in counties in Phase 1 or modified Phase 1 may need to implement additional precautions. The local health department shall determine, in consultation with the state health department, if or how the facilities in these counties can operate.**

CAMPUS SAFETY

- Adhere to all federal, state and local public health and workplace safety requirements;
- Develop comprehensive plans ("Safe Back to School Plan") based on the Campus Reopening Guide prepared by the Higher Education Re-Opening Work Group. The plan must meet all standards for reopening in accordance with federal, state and local health requirements (to include *Safe Start* proclamations and guidance), and make available a copy of these plans at each location on campus;
- Follow state return to work guidance to include allowing work from home for operations able to be performed remotely;
- Maintain minimum physical distancing whenever possible of six feet between all on-campus personnel, including with visitors, and where physical distancing cannot be maintained, implement administrative or engineering controls to minimize exposure;
- Implement and maintain frequent and adequate hand washing policies and include adequate maintenance of supplies;
- Use disposable gloves and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where safe and applicable to prevent transmission on shared items;
- Implement and maintain adequate sanitization of high-touch surfaces and shared resources (e.g., doorknobs, elevators, vending machines, points of sales);
- Implement and maintain a self-certification program through which students and personnel are asked to self-certify that they have experienced no COVID-19 symptoms since last visit to campus facility;
- Require that students and personnel stay home and seek medical or local public health guidance if they are experiencing any known symptoms and to remain isolated until diagnosis and next steps are clear;
- Require that students and personnel self-quarantine or isolate per local public health guidelines if they are confirmed to have COVID-19 or have been exposed to confirmed case;
    - Refer to guidance from the Washington State Department of Health: https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVIDexposed.pdf;
- Develop response protocols for students, personnel, and visitors reporting symptoms and/or are confirmed to have COVID-19;
- Avoid non-essential travel by school personnel and self-quarantine per local public health and worker safety guidelines after any high-risk travel as defined by the CDC (e.g., international travel);
- Follow state reopening guidelines for travel;
- Follow state guidelines for logging onsite personnel by, to the extent feasible, implementing a program to log students, personnel, and visitors;
- Provide contact information to all students/personnel to report concerns and/or potential violations of the Safe Back-to-School Plan;
- Regularly self-monitor and update the Safe Back-to-School Plan;
- Communicate the Safe Back-to-School Plan to all students and personnel including any future modifications; and
- Designate specific spaces for isolating campus personnel who live on campus and/or residential students as needed (e.g. specific building campus personnel and/or students can quarantine in).

STUDENT AND PERSONNEL SUPPORT

- Adhere to state and federal law for health and workplace safety during COVID-19 including state "Safe Start" guidance and State Department of Labor & Industries guidelines;
- Provide students and personnel with PPE such as gloves, goggles, face shields, and/or masks as appropriate or required for students/personnel not working alone (e.g. any public-facing job and/or those whose responsibility includes operating within physical distancing limits of six feet), and shut down or suspend any activity if PPE cannot be provided;
- Note: Follow WA Labor and Industries guidelines for masks: https://www.lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F414-168-000.pdf;
- Identify available alternative arrangements for students and personnel upon requests or refusals to work due to concerns related to campus safety. Priority should be given for students/personnel who are considered high-risk or vulnerable as defined by public health officials; following state guidelines (to include *Safe Start* guidance) for COVID-19 scenarios and benefits; and
- Educate students and personnel on symptom detection, sources of high risk to COVID-19, prevention measures, and leave benefits/policies (e.g., UI for personnel that need to self-quarantine); following any education requirements for employers per state COVID-19 *Safe Start* plan.

VISITOR EXPECTATIONS

- Limit or prohibit visitors; and
- Post visible entry point signage for students, personnel, and visitors describing shared on-campus responsibilities, to include guidance regarding proper hygiene and sanitization, physical distancing and PPE guidance, staying home if feeling sick, information on how and when to report concerns, and other information as appropriate or required.

FOOD SERVICES

- Follow Washington State reopening guidelines for restaurants;
- Enforce capacity limits (e.g., enforced at point of entry with clickers);
- Maintain physical distancing of six feet;
- Implement floor markings to promote physical distancing;
- Post signs to remind students/personnel of physical distancing, PPE requirements, and to use hand sanitizer;
- Complete routine sanitization of high-touch surfaces and shared resources (e.g., door handles, points of sales);
- Restrict cash payments; allow payments only by card or contactless; and
- Require all patrons to wear cloth face coverings except while eating.

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.

As a result of this event, 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).

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 24th day of June, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State