



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 20-05 AND RESCINDING 20-57, et seq.**

20-57.2

Concerning the Health of Agricultural Workers

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 worldwide spread of COVID-19, the high risk it posed and continues to pose to vulnerable populations, its spread and continued persistence in Washington State, and the unprecedented nature of the emergency, I subsequently issued numerous amendatory proclamations, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220, that prohibited certain activities and waived and suspended specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, although the COVID-19 disease continues to persist as an ongoing and present threat in Washington State, the measures we have taken together as Washingtonians over the past 16 months, including the willingness of Washingtonians to take advantage of the remarkable, life-saving vaccines being administered throughout the state, have made a difference and have altered the course of the pandemic in fundamental ways; and

WHEREAS, over the past 16 months, health experts and epidemiological modeling experts, including those at the Department of Health, the United States Center for Disease Control, and our state universities, have gained critical knowledge regarding the spread of COVID-19, including a better understanding of the risks associated with certain activities and the measures that can be taken to reduce those risks; and

WHEREAS, although Department of Health statistics reflect the continued persistence of COVID-19 and support the continuation of the state of emergency, health experts and epidemiological modeling experts believe that as a state we have made adequate progress against COVID-19 to begin rescinding or modifying amendatory proclamations related to specific health issues; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken to combat its spread and severity have had profound, varied, and lasting impacts on our state, including

economic, educational, and societal impacts, and those impacts will fade at different rates for different people; and

WHEREAS, I issued Emergency Proclamation 20-57, originally issued May 28, 2020, and amended on August 19, 2020, which prohibits employers from operating agricultural operations without following specific COVID-19 health and safety measures, and which remains in effect for the duration of the state of emergency unless rescinded beforehand; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to rescind those prohibitions set forth Proclamation 20-57, et seq., at this time; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its persistence 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.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay R. Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, effective immediately, terminate and rescind Emergency Proclamation 20-57, et seq., pursuant to RCW 43.06.210.

Nothing in this order should be read to alter any other COVID-19 health and safety measure originating outside of Proclamation 20-57 et seq., including any agency rule concerning temporary worker housing, or any other COVID-19 health and safety requirement directed by Proclamation 20-25, et seq., the Department of Labor & Industries, or the Department of Health.

I continue to 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.

