



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR  
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 20-05, 20-08, and 20-09, et seq.**

**20-09.5**

**K-12 Schools  
Termination of Emergency Order**

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout Washington State 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 several amendatory proclamations, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations, including issuance of Emergency Proclamations 20-25, et seq., which limit Washingtonians' ability to participate in certain activities; 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**, health professionals and epidemiological modeling experts indicated that continued operation of schools could increase the spread of COVID-19 throughout Washington and would increase the threat to our residents and our health system; and

**WHEREAS**, to counter the threat of COVID-19 in K-12 schools, I issued emergency proclamations specifically addressing K-12 operations, including Emergency Proclamation 20-09 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, all K-12 schools have been open for fulltime, on-campus and in-person instruction since the Spring of 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, although COVID-19 continues as an ongoing and present threat in Washington State, the measures we have taken together as Washingtonians over the past 31 months, including the willingness of most 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**, while COVID-19 appears to be here to stay, recent advances in medicine, including the availability of bivalent COVID-19 boosters for people 5 years and older and vaccines for children 6 months and older, as well as treatments like antivirals, are reasons to be hopeful that we will have the tools to protect ourselves and communities from severe disease and death to the greatest extent possible; and

**WHEREAS**, although Department of Health statistics reflect the continued persistence of COVID-19 in the state, including continued hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19, health experts and epidemiological modeling experts believe that as a state we have made adequate progress against COVID-19 to end the state of emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and pursuant to Emergency Proclamation 20-05.1, and under Chapter 43.06 RCW, do hereby declare that, although the threat of COVID-19 remains in all counties in the state of Washington, a K-12 Emergency Proclamation is no longer necessary to continue to respond to this disease.

As a result, I hereby declare the termination of the K-12 Emergency Proclamation and rescind and terminate Proclamation 20-09 et seq., effective October 31, 2022, at 11:59 PM.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 28th day of October, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty-Two at Olympia, Washington.

By:

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/s/  
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

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/s/  
Secretary of State