



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

**DIRECTIVE OF THE GOVERNOR RESCINDING DIRECTIVE 22.13 et seq.
22-13.2**

May 10, 2023

To: Washington State Executive and Small-Cabinet Agencies
From: Governor Jay Inslee
Subject: Rescission of COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for State Employees

Last week, the World Health Organization announced an end to the global health emergency for COVID-19. This week, the Biden Administration is ending the national COVID-19 public health emergency and lifting COVID-19 vaccination requirements for federal employees and contractors.

To align Washington state policy with the ending of the national public health emergency, with this Directive, I am rescinding Directive 22-13 et seq., effective tomorrow, May 11, 2023. Executive cabinet and small cabinet state agencies will no longer require COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of employment.

Though the emergency has ended, the work continues to maintain safe and healthy workplaces and communities. We must continue to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the risk of serious illness and death. State employees should still stay home when sick, wear a fitted face mask if exposed to the virus, and stay up-to-date with bivalent vaccination shots.

We will incentivize state employees to be “up-to-date” with their COVID-19 vaccination in alignment with [CDC](#) and Washington State Department of Health recommendations. Eligible employees who choose to provide their employer with proof of up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination should talk to their supervisor or HR office about how to receive their \$1,000 incentive. Employees who are represented by a labor union should consult their applicable labor collective bargaining agreement.

For more than three years, we have all faced incredible challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted every aspect of our lives. Throughout this public health crisis, our state employee family has demonstrated inspiring resilience and dedication, and I want to thank you for your exemplary service under extremely unprecedented circumstances.

Looking ahead, I am filled with hope and optimism for what the future holds in Washington state. We have risen to the occasion during a defining moment in our history, and the measures we took helped us to achieve one of the lowest death rates in the nation, despite the fact that the pandemic spread here very early on. It is my hope that our employees will continue to take necessary steps to protect themselves, their loved ones, and our community. We have the tools and tenacity we need to effectively respond and achieve meaningful and lasting recovery for the people of our great state.