



King County

PROCLAMATION AND ORDER OF THE KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE Terminating the COVID-19 Proclamation of Emergency

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, I issued a Proclamation of Emergency to address a significant health emergency caused by the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) before the widespread availability of life-saving vaccines and treatments; and authorized the emergency powers vested in me as King County Executive by RCW chapter 38.52, and King County Code chapters 2.56 and 12.52, as described in the Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, the measures we have taken together since early 2020, including the vaccination of over 90 percent of King County’s adult population, have made a difference and altered the course of the pandemic in fundamental ways; and

WHEREAS, with King County’s high level of vaccination booster uptake, particularly among those considered to be the most at-risk, the number of hospitalizations has stabilized at a safe level; and

WHEREAS, while COVID-19 appears to be here to stay, recent advances in medicine, including the widespread availability of vaccines for adults and children, 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WHEREAS, Governor Jay Inslee terminated the COVID-19 State of Emergency proclaimed in Proclamation 20-05, and also rescinded all COVID-19 emergency proclamations issued pursuant to Proclamation 20-05, effective October 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, since the COVID-19 outbreak began, King County has used the best available science and expertise from the Department of Public Health – Seattle and King County (“Public Health”); and

WHEREAS, Public Health needed to assess the potential of how a winter surge in COVID-19 might impact the community before supporting a termination of the March 1, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, some King County operations and services continue to be impacted by COVID-19, including staffing shortages and the availability of in-person services; and

WHEREAS, I have consulted with the Director of Public Health, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management for King County, and other King County Department Directors to determine if there are any public health, fiscal, public safety response, or disaster recovery imperatives that require the continuation of the emergency powers granted to the Executive under the Proclamation of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, based on that consultation, there are no public health, fiscal, public safety response, or disaster recovery imperatives that require the continuation of the emergency powers granted to the Executive under the Proclamation of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, while the use of emergency powers are no longer needed to manage the risks of COVID-19 for the reasons set forth above, Public Health recommends that for everyone who is eligible to stay up to date with boosters (including the recent bivalent doses), and to continue the use of treatments and prevention measures, to lower the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, or death from COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DOW CONSTANTINE, AS KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE, DO PROCLAIM AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: TERMINATION OF PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY

A. Although the threat of COVID-19 remains and King County is continuing diligent efforts to manage the public health risks in our community, a Proclamation of Emergency is no longer necessary to continue to respond to this disease. Therefore, the Proclamation issued on March 1, 2020, is terminated as of February 6, 2023.

SECTION 2: ORDER

- A. Executive Order ACO-8-27-EO, issued under the March 1, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency and pertaining to the vaccine mandate for King County employees, is hereby terminated.
- B. Executive Order ACO-8-28-EO, issued under the March 1, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency and pertaining to the vaccine mandate for King County contractors and volunteers, is hereby terminated.
- C. The following additional orders issued pursuant to the March 1, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency are hereby terminated:
- (i) the orders embedded in the March 1, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency,
 - (ii) the orders in PHL-10-4-EO, Significant Health Emergency Caused by Novel Coronavirus,
 - (iii) the order in ACO-8-20-EO, County Work and Education Release Unit Closed in Response to COVID-19,
 - (iv) the order in ACO-8-21-EO, Extending the Property Tax Deadline in Response to COVID-19,
 - (v) the orders in ACO-8-25-1-EO, Issuance of Special Use Permits, to Utilize King County Right-of-Way for Restaurant, Personal Services or Retail Use,
 - (vi) the order in ACO-8-24-EO, Emergency Budget Crisis in Response to COVID-19,
 - (vii) the orders in ACO-8-25-EO, Use of King County Right of Way for Restaurant, Personal Services or Retail Use in Response to COVID-19, and

- D. The order in ACO-8-23-7-EO, Metro Service Reductions in Response to COVID-19, issued pursuant to the March 1, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency, is hereby reissued under King County Code section 28.94.020.B.2.a and terminated effective at the end of the current service change.

- E. King County agencies shall continue to follow the health safety guidance issued by Public Health, including but not limited to measures such as masking and social distancing.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2023



DOW CONSTANTINE, Executive
King County, Washington

Attest:

DocuSigned by:



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Maria Laird for Norm Alberg,
Director, Records and Licensing Services Division, Department of Executive Services

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