

HR Tracker, ¶46,769, Washington governor issues “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order — STATE LAW, (Mar. 25, 2020)

On March 23, Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced he would sign a statewide order that requires everyone in the state to stay at home. The order will last for two weeks but could be extended.

Governor Inslee is expected to sign the Order in the evening of March 24, 2020, as announced in his “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” address.

This Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is similar to orders that other governors, in places such as California and New York, issued last week.

This Proclamation (20-25) will:

- Require every Washingtonian to stay home unless they need to pursue an essential activity.
- Ban all gatherings for social, spiritual and recreational purposes.
- Close all businesses except essential businesses.

“The less time we spend in public, the more lives we will save,” Inslee said.

The proclamation states it’s still safe for people to go outside as long as they remain at least six feet from each other. Grocery stores, doctor’s offices and other essential businesses will remain open. People can still participate in activities such as bike rides, gardening, and dog walking—“as long as they follow social distancing rules.

Business closures must happen 48 hours after Inslee signs the order.

Many businesses can, and should, continue using telework.

All grocery stores, pharmacies, childcare facilities, gas stations, food supply chains and other things that offer people basic, crucial needs will remain open. Inslee expects businesses and residents to voluntarily comply. He will discuss possible enforcement mechanisms in the coming days if residents and businesses do not comply.

Industries that can argue they are essential can request a special designation as an essential business.

Businesses and entities that provide essential services must implement rules that help facilitate social distancing of at least six feet.

Source: State of Washington, Office of the Governor, News Releases, March 23, 2020 and March 24, 2020.