

Review of the Governor's
Proclamation
concerning Institutes of Higher
Education – July 12, 2021

The Governor amended a series of emergency proclamations, made over the last 15 months concerning *Institutes of Higher Education*, or **IHEs**. Establishes criteria for the return to ‘normal’ operations in support of in-person learning for the newly developing post-COVID operating environment. The proclamation was updated last night.

- [Proclamation 20-12.4 - Higher Education](#)
 - Amends Proclamations:
 - [20-05](#) – Coronavirus – State of Emergency -- February 29, 2020
 - [20-12](#) -- Colleges and University (Public and Private) operations – March 13, 2020
 - [20-25](#) – Stay Home, Stay Healthy – March 23, 2020
 - [20-12.1](#) – Higher Education – Fall 2020 -- June 24, 2020
 - [20-12.2](#) – Higher Education -- Fall 2020 – October 20, 2020
 - [20-12.3](#) - Higher Education – June 30, 2021

What Does the Proclamation Declare?



- IHEs may return to “in-person classroom instruction, lectures and similar educational gatherings”
- both public and private
- universities, colleges, community colleges, and technical colleges
- provided certain requirements are and continue to be satisfied
- More on that in a second...

WHAT DO COLLEGES NEED TO DO?

IHEs need to establish that they are a

FULLY VACCINATED CAMPUS

OR, if they choose, operate as a

**NOT FULLY VACCINATED
CAMPUS**

What policy goal is driving the Proclamation?



It is focused on increasing overall vaccination rates...

...and believes IHEs are the place to find improvements in vaccine uptake

- 18+ years of age – ‘college demographic’
- Only 50 percent of 18 to 34 year olds in Washington are vaccinated
 - Pierce County – 39.1%
 - Source: Department of Health COVID [Dashboard](#)
- References ‘congregate living arrangements, including fraternities and sororities’
- Mirrors CDC [Guidance for IHEs](#)

So what are those “certain requirements?”



- Fully Vaccinated Campus

- **What** - Must implement a policy requiring all members of student body, faculty, and staff be fully vaccinated against COVID 19
 - Fully Vaccinated using the commonly recited group of Moderna, Pfizer, and J&J
 - Exemptions allowed for medical, religious or philosophical reasons
- **How** – The college must implement a method for gathering, confirming and reporting the vaccination status of students, faculty, and staff that are not exempt.
 - The process for determining/establishing exemption would need to be incorporated
- **And the Masks?**
 - Yes, if unvaccinated and
 - for visitors, volunteers, or contractors per DOH [face covering order](#)
- **When** – the proclamation is effective immediately.
 - ✓ Systems required to gather and report data reduce pace of implementation
- **Anything else** - Policies must include safety considerations for exempt people and others

And if you don't want to be a 'Fully Vaccinated Campus'?



- Non-vaccinated campuses

- **MUST** > Maintain existing COVID-19 standards and protocols established consistent with all CDC and DOH standards.
- **MUST** > Implement policies and procedures for determining vaccination status of students, faculty and staff
- **Masks? ALL STAFF MUST wear masks &**

College **MUST** enforce DOH [face covering order](#)

EXEMPTIONS ONLY EXIST for persons who can verify they are fully vaccinated

- **What about Students?** The college must verify the vaccination status of every student who participates with in-person learning and other related activities.
- **Are there more MUSTs?**
 - Social distancing (3 feet), sanitation standards, Smart-Sheet check-ins, sign-in/contact tracing protocols, PPE requirements, all remain in place.

Questions?