



EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-02

ORDER REGARDING GROCERY SUPPLY CHAINS

PURPOSE:

- I. To protect grocery supply chains and ensure that grocers are fully operational by lifting local restrictions on delivery days and times.

DISCUSSION:

- I. On January 21, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in Snohomish County, Washington. COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person.
- II. The Washington State Department of Health has since confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Washington State's general public and creating an extreme public health risk that COVID-19 may spread quickly. Over 130 dozen cases of COVID-19 already exist in Snohomish County, and COVID-19 already caused the death of four Snohomish County residents.
- III. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning January 27, 2020. On February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a public health emergency for COVID-19. On March 4, 2020, the Snohomish County Health Officer proclaimed a countywide public health emergency for COVID-19. On March 4, 2020, Executive Dave Somers issued a "Local Declaration of Emergency Snohomish County" for COVID-19 (the "Emergency").
- IV. On March 12, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed that all K-12 schools in Snohomish County, King County, and Pierce County would close by March 17, 2020, and remain closed through April 24, 2020. On March 13, 2020,

Executive Dave Somers issued an “Emergency Executive Order Regarding Additional Measures in Response to COVID-19” ordering, among other things, that all K-12 schools in Snohomish County would closed by March 17, 2020, and remain closed through April 24, 2020. While school closures are a vital tool to arrest the spread of COVID-19, school closures will also have workforce effects as parents remain at home caring for their school aged children.

- V. In addition to the workforce effects created by school closures, workforce reductions are also occurring throughout Snohomish County and beyond as a result of COVID-19 infections and related isolation and quarantine of impacted workers.
- VI. Consumer anxiety around COVID-19 has led to hoarding behavior across a range of products resulting in grocery stock shortages. Hoarding behavior can stress grocery supply chain distribution infrastructure as supply shipments attempt to meet surges in demand. For purposes of this Order, “grocery” refers to retail foodstuffs, including meat, produce, and dairy products, and other household supplies.
- VII. The grocery industry fills a critical role in the lives of Snohomish County residents. Snohomish County is invested in keeping grocery supply chain distribution and retail operations fully operational and available to the general public.
- VIII. Pursuant to chapter 38.52 RCW and SCC 2.36, Executive Somers has broad authority to issue, amend, and rescind orders on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by COVID-19.
- IX. Many jurisdictions throughout Snohomish County have adopted ordinances restricting grocery store product delivery hours in order regulate and abate noise. In light of the current stresses on grocery supply chains due to hoarding behavior and workforce reductions, strict compliance with these ordinances will prevent, hinder, and delay grocery supply chain distribution and threaten the ability of grocers to operate at full capacity.

ACTION:

- I. All County and city roads and streets throughout Snohomish County are open twenty four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week to grocery supply chain deliveries regardless of any local ordinance regulating the days and hours of such deliveries.

- II. The language of any County or city ordinance, regulation, permit or other rule restricting the days or hours of grocery supply chain deliveries is hereby waived and suspended.

CANCELLATION:

This Emergency Executive Order will remain in effect until cancelled, suspended, or upon the Executive's issuance of a proclamation declaring an end to the Emergency, whichever shall occur first.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2020.

APPROVED:



Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive

