

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, beginning on January 21, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention activated their Emergency Response Center and began responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a State of Preparedness was first issued for West Virginia on March 4, 2020, to begin to coordinate and create necessary measures to prepare for the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, a State of Emergency was declared for West Virginia by that certain Proclamation issued March 16, 2020, to allow the State to best respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, nearly every agency of the State, local health department, police force, fire house, and countless other organizations and individuals throughout this Great State worked tirelessly over the course of the pandemic to effectively respond to and recover from this deadly and devastating pandemic, which has taken the lives of over 7,500 West Virginians; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic led the Nation in many ways, including the quick decision to vaccinate our elderly and those in nursing homes as soon as shots were available, which decision no doubt saved countless lives among that vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS, certain challenges resulting from the pandemic surely remain, but the time for emergency response has ended and the time for all parties to come together, to pull the rope together, and to overcome these remaining challenges together under non-emergency processes is now upon us; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with my authority as Governor, and pursuant to the terms of West Virginia Code § 15-5-6, it is at this time appropriate that the State of Emergency declared regarding the COVID-19 pandemic be terminated, effective as of January 1, 2023, in order to provide adequate time for emergency rules to be lifted and for statutory regulations to be reinstated without harmful effect on West Virginians;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM JUSTICE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, and in view of the foregoing, do hereby **FIND AND DECLARE** that the State of Emergency declared in that certain Proclamation issued March 16, 2020, is hereby terminated as of January 1, 2023, and that, therefore, any and all Executive Orders issued under such State of Emergency are likewise terminated and without further effect, effective as of January 1, 2023, in order to give adequate time for emergency rules to be lifted and for statutory regulations to be reinstated without harmful effect on West Virginians.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Twelfth Day of November, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, in the One Hundred Sixtieth Year of the State.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE



By the State