



King County

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2022, Public Health—Seattle & King County reported to me that it activated the Public Health Departmental Emergency Operations Center on July 18, 2022 for a significant health emergency caused by an outbreak of monkeypox cases; and

WHEREAS, between May 15, 2022 and August 18, 2022, there have been 14,115 confirmed monkeypox cases in the United States, a country that has not historically reported monkeypox transmission; and

WHEREAS, between May 23, 2022 and August 18, 2022, there have been 272 cases of monkeypox in King County and the number of cases continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2022, United States Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra declared monkeypox to be a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Public Health – Seattle & King County has been responding to the monkeypox outbreak since May 23, 2022 including: conducting case investigations and disease surveillance; analyzing and reporting outbreak epidemiology; facilitating patient screening and testing for suspected monkeypox cases; distributing antivirals and vaccine to healthcare systems; directly providing clinical services through Public Health’s Sexual Health Clinic at Harborview and through community vaccination events; establishing a call center to respond to questions from healthcare providers and the public; collaborating authentically and deeply with community partners and trusted community leaders to develop approaches to mitigate disease spread as well as messages that protect health and do not stigmatize; and

WHEREAS, Public Health – Seattle & King County has been collaborating closely with experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and colleagues at the Washington Department of Health to share the latest information and guidance for healthcare providers and the public regarding the risk to contacts of known cases, the identification and management of possible cases, and prevention recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the monkeypox outbreak described above threatens public health; and

WHEREAS, King County recognizes the long history of racism and discriminatory policies that Black, Native, People of Color, immigrant and refugee, LGBTQ+ communities, homeless, and other marginalized communities have faced in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racism magnified the importance of authentically working with communities to address the health and socio-economic disparities that have long been disproportionately affecting Black, Native, People of Color, immigrant and refugee, LGBTQ+ communities, homeless, and other marginalized communities in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, the monkeypox outbreak described above has disproportionately impacted gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, transgender, gender non-binary, and genderqueer people, and the Hispanic/Latinx communities; and

WHEREAS, if monkeypox becomes established in these communities, health inequities will be exacerbated; and

WHEREAS, unlawful discrimination related to this public health emergency and implementation of this proclamation will not be tolerated by King County; and

WHEREAS, the conditions described above require further development and implementation of plans for supporting infection prevention; managing cases and outbreaks; advancing equity in accessing education, screening, testing, treatment, isolation and quarantine supports, and vaccination; and a need to make immediate contracting and purchasing decisions in support of these plans to prevent community harm; and

WHEREAS, as described in SECTION 2 of this Proclamation, the situation is sufficiently serious that it is necessary that I proclaim an emergency within King County and exercise the Executive's emergency powers; and

WHEREAS, I have reviewed the situation, consulted with Executive branch agencies and personnel, and verified the emergency cited above and the necessity for me to take immediate, extraordinary action as outlined in this Proclamation.

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

SECTION 1: EMERGENCY POWERS

A. As described in SECTION 2, an emergency exists requiring and authorizing me to exercise 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 this Proclamation; and

B. Effective upon my signing this Proclamation, I will exercise that authority through the use and direction of County personnel, services, and equipment, and additional acts necessary to the management of this emergency.

SECTION 2: PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY

A. Based on my review of the present circumstances, the report of Public Health—Seattle & King County, and my consultations with Executive branch agencies and personnel, I find and proclaim that an emergency exists, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010.A, due to an outbreak of monkeypox cases, and that these conditions demand that I exercise the authority assumed in SECTION 1 and take the extraordinary measures stated in SECTION 3, for the immediate preservation of public health, safety, and order, and to relieve loss, hardship, and suffering.

SECTION 3: ORDER

A. Pursuant to K.C.C. 12.52.030.C.2, I hereby order that the public advertising and competitive procurement requirements of state law and K.C.C. chapter 2.93, and all applicable Executive policies and procedures, and the requirements of K.C.C. chapter 12.19, are waived relating to County contracts for the following purchases or leases:

1. Tangible personal property;
2. Public works as defined by RCW 39.04.010; and
3. Services, including professional or technical services.

B. Pursuant to K.C.C. 12.52.030.C.1, I hereby order that King County staff may authorize overtime for personnel in positions requiring overtime to adequately respond to the emergency.

C. Pursuant to K.C.C. 12.52.030.C.10, I hereby order that King County staff have the authority to make temporary (up to one year or the duration of the emergency) appointments of personnel to positions that directly respond to the emergency, when the urgency of filling positions prohibits examining applicants through the competitive process, and is imminently necessary for the protection of life and property.

D. I further reserve the right to issue such further orders as authorized by K.C.C. chapter 12.52 as may be necessary to respond to the emergency proclaimed in SECTION 2.

SECTION 4: NOTICE

A. A copy of this Proclamation and any order(s) issued hereunder shall be delivered to the Clerk of the Council and each King County Councilmember by email before the execution of any contract or lease authorized under SECTION 3. A copy of this Proclamation and any order(s) issued hereunder shall also be filed with the Clerk of the Council by no later than 10:00 a.m. on the second business day after issuance. To the extent practicable, a copy of this Proclamation and all emergency orders issued hereunder shall be delivered to all news media within King County and made available to the general public.

SECTION 5: EXPIRATION AND TERMINATION

A. This Proclamation shall continue in force and effect until terminated by order of the Executive or action by the County Council by ordinance. However, the order in SECTION 3A shall expire twenty-one (21) calendar days after issuance, unless terminated sooner by order of the Executive or action by the County Council by motion, or extended by the County Council by motion.

DATED this 19th day of August, 2022.



DOW CONSTANTINE, Executive
King County, Washington