

WSR 21-08-007
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Filed March 24, 2021, 4:27 p.m., effective March 24, 2021, 4:27 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: WAC 246-10-109 and 246-11-080, fourth emergency rule responding to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Amending the procedural rules applicable to adjudicative proceedings conducted by the department of health (department) and health professions boards and commissions in order to facilitate filing and serving documents as part of the department's continuing response and mitigation efforts to the evolving COVID-19 public health threat while vaccine distribution efforts are ongoing. Chapter 246-10 WAC applies to all adjudicative proceedings conducted by the department. Chapter 246-11 WAC applies to adjudicative proceedings conducted by health professions boards and commissions having disciplining authority under the Uniform Disciplinary Act, chapter 18.130 RCW.

This emergency rule is similar to the emergency rule filed on November 25, 2020, as WSR 20-24-080, on July 28, 2020, as WSR 20-16-055, and on March 30, 2020, as WSR 20-08-096. This emergency rule will continue to allow for the option of e-filing documents and recognizes that the parties may agree with the department's adjudicative clerk's office (ACO) to electronic service of documents, including notices of hearing, initial orders, and final orders. The rule includes clarifications regarding the use of electronic filing. It removes the options of filing with the department's ACO by hand delivery, and serving documents on a party or a party's designated representative by personal service. It retains the options of filing documents by mailing hard copies to or faxing to the ACO, or serving a party by mail or fax, but removes the requirement to mail copies at the same time as faxing them.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 246-10-109 and 246-11-080.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 43.70.040 and 34.05.220 (1)(a).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: In response to COVID-19, the department continues to take action to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and follow social distancing practices while vaccine distribution efforts are ongoing. This emergency rule continues to include the options of e-filing, and recognizes that the parties can agree to electronic service of documents, which can be better options to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. It includes clarification regarding how to electronically file documents. It retains the options of mailing hard copies to or faxing to the ACO, or serving a party by mail or fax. This emergency rule removes the options of hand delivering documents to the ACO or personally serving documents on a party or a party's designated representative. Hand delivery of documents can defy the principles of social

distancing practices, and can put individuals at the risk of spreading COVID-19. The buildings at the department continue to be temporarily closed, making hand delivery difficult. The emergency rules filed as WSR 20-24-080 on November 25, 2020, will expire on March 25, 2021. To continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and safely continue the essential functions of the agency during these unprecedented times, it is necessary to file a fourth emergency rule to allow for continued electronic filing and service of documents.

The department has filed a CR-101 (WSR 20-15-095) and anticipates permanently adopting these emergency rules, or something similar in late summer or early fall of 2021.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 23, 2021.

Jessica Todorovich
 Chief of Staff
 for Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH
 Secretary

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-18-049, filed 8/29/18, effective 9/29/18)

WAC 246-10-109 Filing and service of documents.

(1) For purposes of this section "documents" means pleadings, briefs, exhibits, orders, or other materials requested or relevant to an adjudicative proceeding.

(2) Filing. Filing is the act of delivering documents to the adjudicative clerk's office.

(a) A party must file with the adjudicative clerk's office documents required or allowed pursuant to this chapter.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, documents must be filed by:

(i) ~~((Hand delivery to the adjudicative clerk's office; ((i)) First class, registered, or certified mail; ((or ((iii)) (ii) Fax transmission ((where copies are mailed simultaneously)); or~~

(iii) Electronic mail sent to ACOfax@doh.wa.gov.

(c) The date of filing is the date the documents are received by the adjudicative clerk's office.

(d) Filing is effective when the documents are received by the adjudicative clerk's office during normal business hours. For documents received after 5:00 p.m. on a business day or on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the filing is effective the next business day.

(3) Service. Service is the act of delivering a document to a party or a party's designated representative.

(a) Unless otherwise provided by law, documents must be served by:

(i) ~~((Personal service;~~
~~((ii)))~~ First class, registered, or certified mail; or
~~((iii)))~~ (ii) Fax transmission ~~((where copies are mailed simultaneously)).~~

(b) A party must serve copies of documents required or allowed by this chapter prior to or simultaneously with filing the original document with the adjudicative clerk's office.

(c) Service is complete when the documents are:

(i) ~~((Personally served;~~
~~((ii)))~~ Properly stamped, addressed, and deposited in the United States mail; or
~~((iii)))~~ (ii) Successfully transmitted by fax ~~((and properly stamped and addressed copies are deposited in the United States mail)).~~

(d) A party may prove service by filing in compliance with this chapter any of the following:

(i) An acknowledgment of service; or
(ii) A certificate of service including the date the documents were served, the parties upon whom served, the signature of the serving party, and a statement specifying which type of service was used.

(e) Service on a licensee, applicant, or a person requesting an adjudicative proceeding will be made at the last known address provided to the department in accordance with WAC 246-12-310, unless the program has actual knowledge of a different correct address for the person being served.

(4) The parties may agree to use electronic mail for service of documents.

(5) A party may agree with the adjudicative clerk's office to service of documents via electronic mail, including notices of hearing, initial orders, and final orders.

(6) The adjudicative clerk's office will serve documents via electronic mail in those cases in which all parties agree to electronic service.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-18-050, filed 8/29/18, effective 9/29/18)

WAC 246-11-080 Filing and service of documents.

(1) For purposes of this section "document" means pleadings, briefs, exhibits, orders, or other materials requested or relevant to an adjudicative proceeding.

(2) Filing. Filing is the act of delivering documents to the adjudicative clerk's office.

(a) A party must file with the adjudicative clerk's office documents required or allowed pursuant to this chapter.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, documents must be filed by:

(i) ~~((Hand delivery to the adjudicative clerk's office;~~
~~((ii)))~~ First class, registered, or certified mail; ~~((or~~
~~((iii)))~~ (ii) Fax transmission ~~((where copies are mailed simultaneously)); or~~
(iii) Electronic mail sent to ACOfax@doh.wa.gov.

(c) The date of filing is the date the documents are received by the adjudicative clerk's office.

(d) Filing is effective when the documents are received by the adjudicative clerk's office during normal business hours. For documents received after 5:00 p.m. on a business day or on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the filing is effective the next business day.

(3) Service. Service is the act of delivering a document to a party or a party's designated representative.

(a) Unless otherwise provided by law, documents must be served by:

(i) ~~((Personal service;~~
~~((ii)))~~ First class, registered, or certified mail; or
~~((iii)))~~ (ii) Fax transmission ~~((where copies are mailed simultaneously)).~~

(b) A party must serve copies of documents required or allowed by this chapter prior to or simultaneously with filing the original document with the adjudicative clerk's office.

(c) Service is complete when the documents are:

(i) ~~((Personally served;~~
~~((ii)))~~ Properly stamped, addressed, and deposited in the United States mail; or
~~((iii)))~~ (ii) Successfully transmitted by fax ~~((and properly stamped and addressed copies are deposited in the United States mail)).~~

(d) A party may prove service by filing in compliance with this chapter any of the following:

(i) An acknowledgment of service; or
(ii) A certificate of service including the date the documents were served, the parties upon whom served, the signature of the serving party, and a statement specifying which type of service was used.

(e) Service on a licensee, applicant, or a person requesting an adjudicative proceeding will be made at the last known address provided to the department in accordance with WAC 246-12-310, unless the program has actual knowledge of a different correct address for the person being served.

(4) The parties may agree to use electronic mail for service of documents.

(5) A party may agree with the adjudicative clerk's office to service of documents via electronic mail, including notices of hearing, initial orders, and final orders.

(6) The adjudicative clerk's office will serve documents via electronic mail in cases in which all parties have agreed to electronic service.

WSR 21-08-009

EMERGENCY RULES

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

[Filed March 26, 2021, 7:47 a.m., effective March 26, 2021, 7:47 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: WAC 246-101-017 Novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) reporting, the Washington state board of health (board) has adopted a third emergency rule to continue to designate COVID-19 as a notifiable condition and extends reporting requirements for health care providers, health care facilities, laboratories, local health jurisdictions, and the department of agriculture (DOA) to report certain data with each COVID-19 test, including test results, relevant demographic details (e.g., patient's age, race,

ethnicity, sex), and additional information to improve the public health response to COVID-19. The rule allows for certain waivers by a local health officer. The rule establishes what testing and demographic data need to be reported as well as the timing and mechanism of reporting in accordance with Public Law 116-136, § 18115(a), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This emergency rule will take effect upon the expiration of the existing emergency rule.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 246-101-017.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 43.20.050 (2)(f).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest; and that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: The CARES Act requires "every laboratory that performs or analyzes a test that is intended to detect SARS-CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19" to report the results from each such test to the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In addition, the CARES Act authorizes the secretary to prescribe the form, manner, timing, and frequency of such reporting. The HHS secretary released laboratory data reporting guidance for COVID-19 on June 4, 2020, and later updated the guidance on January 8, 2021. The guidance requires all data components be reported through existing state and local public health data reporting methods until the end of the public health emergency. Of these requirements, demographic information such as the patient's age, race, ethnicity, and sex must be collected and reported in accordance with state law or policies.

In September 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published an interim final rule in Federal Register 54826, Volume 85, Number 171, to update requirements for reporting SARS-CoV-2 test results by laboratories. The interim final rule states all laboratories conducting SARS-CoV-2 testing and reporting patient-specific results, including hospital laboratories, nursing homes, and other facilities conducting testing for COVID-19, who fail to report information required under the CARES Act will be subject to monetary penalties. The interim final rules became effective September 2, 2020.

The board previously adopted emergency rules on July 31, 2020, as WSR 20-16-121 and November 25, 2020, as WSR 20-24-081 to designate COVID-19 as a notifiable condition and require laboratories, health care providers, health care facilities, local health jurisdictions, and DOA to report demographic, testing, and other relevant data for each COVID-19 test through Washington's existing public health reporting mechanism for notifiable conditions. The immediate adoption of a third emergency rule to extend these requirements is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and general welfare of the state of Washington

during this pandemic and to ensure continued compliance with the federal law and related guidance.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 23, 2021.

Michelle A. Davis
Executive Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 246-101-017 Novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) reporting. (1) Designating coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes it, as a notifiable condition, and requiring the reporting of race and ethnicity and other essential data by health care providers, health care facilities, laboratories, and local health departments related to cases of COVID-19 are necessary to ensure that public health agencies receive complete notice of COVID-19 cases and to address racial and ethnic inequities in morbidity and mortality among individuals with the disease. This rule is also necessary to align with the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services laboratory data reporting requirements for COVID-19 testing, which require reporting of COVID-19 data to the appropriate state or local health department and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and further, that any person or entity ordering a diagnostic or serologic test, collecting a specimen, or performing a test should make every reasonable effort to collect complete demographic information and include such data when ordering a laboratory test to enable the entities performing the test to report these data to state and local public health departments. In the midst of this global pandemic, immediate adoption of a rule requiring notice of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) as a notifiable condition and reporting of race, ethnicity, and other essential data is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, and general welfare.

(2) For the purpose of this section:

(a) "Animal case" means an animal, alive or dead, with a diagnosis of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) made by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 18.92 RCW, veterinary medical facility licensed under chapter 18.92 RCW, or veterinary laboratory as defined under chapter 16.70 RCW based on clinical criteria, or laboratory criteria, or both.

(b) "Health care facility" means:

(i) Any assisted living facility licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW; birthing center licensed under chapter 18.46 RCW; nursing home licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW; hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW; adult family home licensed under chapter 70.128 RCW; ambulatory surgical facility licensed under chapter 70.230 RCW; private establishment licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW; or enhanced service facility licensed under chapter 70.97 RCW; and

(ii) Clinics or other settings where one or more health care providers practice.

(c) "Immediately" means without delay, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

(d) "Secure electronic data transmission" means electronic communication and accounts developed and maintained to prevent unauthorized access, loss, or compromise of sensitive information including, but not limited to, secure file transfer, secure facsimile, a health information exchange authorized under RCW 41.05.039, and the secure electronic disease surveillance system.

(e) "Secure electronic disease surveillance system" means the secure electronic data transmission system maintained by the department and used by local health departments to submit notifications, investigation reports, and outbreak reports under this chapter.

(f) Patient's ethnicity shall be identified by the patient and reported using one of the following categories:

(i) Hispanic or Latino;

(ii) Non-Hispanic or Latino;

(iii) Unknown; or

(iv) Asked, but unknown.

(g) Patient's race shall be identified by the patient and reported using one or more of the following categories:

(i) American Indian or Alaska Native;

(ii) Asian;

(iii) Black or African American;

(iv) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander;

(v) White;

(vi) Unknown; or

(vii) Asked, but unknown.

(h) Ask on order entry questions are:

(i) Is this the patient's first test of any kind for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2)? (yes, no, unknown);

(ii) Is the patient employed in health care with direct patient contact? (yes, no, unknown);

(iii) Is the patient symptomatic as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)? (yes, no, unknown). If yes, then provide date of symptom onset (mm/dd/yyyy);

(iv) Is the patient hospitalized for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) at the time of testing? (yes, no, unknown);

(v) Is the patient in the intensive care unit (ICU) for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) at the time of testing? (yes, no, unknown);

(vi) Is the patient a resident in a congregate care or living setting (including, but not limited to, nursing homes, residential care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, psychiatric treatment facilities, group homes, board and care homes, homeless shelter, foster care, correctional

facilities, and temporary worker housing)? (yes, no, unknown); and

(vii) Is the patient pregnant? (yes, no, unknown).

(3) Unless a health care facility has assumed the notification duties of the principal health care provider under subsection (8) of this section, or a laboratory director in a health care facility where laboratory point of care testing occurs under a certificate of waiver as described in WAC 246-338-020 has fulfilled the laboratory notification requirements as described in subsection (10) of this section, the principal health care provider shall submit individual case reports of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to the local health department via secure electronic data transmission using a file format or template specified by the department:

(a) Within twenty-four hours of receiving a laboratory confirmed positive test result; and

(b) Following the requirements of this section, WAC 246-101-105, and WAC 246-101-120; excluding the requirements in WAC 246-101-105(10).

(4) The local health officer may waive or partially waive subsection (3) or (5) of this section, or both if the local health officer determines individual case reports of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) submitted by health care providers or health care facilities are not needed and are not promoting public health for any reason including, but not limited to, the local health department being unable to process the volume of case reports. The local health officer shall notify health care providers and health care facilities upon their determination.

(5) A health care facility shall submit individual case reports of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to the local health department via secure electronic data transmission using a file format or template specified by the department:

(a) Within twenty-four hours of receiving a laboratory confirmed positive test result; and

(b) Following the requirements of this section, WAC 246-101-305, and WAC 246-101-320; excluding the requirement in WAC 246-101-305(4).

(6) Health care providers and health care facilities shall provide the local health department with the information identified in Column A of Table 1 in this section for individual case reports concerning novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

(7) Health care providers and health care facilities may provide the local health department with responses to ask on order entry questions under subsection (2)(h) of this section for individual case reports concerning novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

(8) A health care facility may assume the notification requirements established in this section for a health care provider practicing within the health care facility.

(9) A health care facility shall not assume the notification requirements established in this section for a laboratory that is a component of the health care facility.

(10) A principal health care provider is not required to submit individual case reports of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to the local health department when the provider practices in a health care facility where laboratory point of care testing occurs under a certificate of waiver as described in WAC 246-338-020 and the laboratory director has fulfilled

the laboratory notification requirements under subsections (14), (15), and (16) of this section.

(11) Health care providers and health care facilities shall provide the laboratory with the information identified in Column A of Table 1 in this section for each test ordered for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

(12) Health care providers and health care facilities may provide the laboratory with responses to ask on order entry questions under subsection (2)(h) of this section for each test ordered for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

(13) For specimens associated with novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) sent to a laboratory outside of Washington state, health care providers, health care facilities, and laboratories shall provide the out-of-state laboratory with a copy of chapter 246-101 WAC if they arrange for the out-of-state laboratory to report the test results consistent with WAC 246-101-105 (5)(a), 246-101-205 (1)(f)(i), or 246-101-305 (1)(e) (i) to the local health department as required under this subsection.

(14) A laboratory director shall submit individual laboratory reports of positive, negative, and indeterminate test results for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to the local health department via secure electronic data transmission using a file format or template specified by the department:

(a) Within twenty-four hours; and

(b) Following the requirements of this section, WAC 246-101-205, and WAC 246-101-230; excluding the requirements in WAC 246-101-205(3).

(15) A laboratory director shall provide the information identified in Column B of Table 1 in this section to the local health department with each novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) laboratory report.

(16) A laboratory director may provide the local health department with responses to ask on order entry questions under subsection (2)(h) of this section with each novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) laboratory report.

(17) A laboratory director, upon request by the local health department or the department, shall submit novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) presumptive positive isolates or, if no isolate is available, the specimen associated with the presumptive positive result to the Washington state public health laboratories within two business days of request. Specimens shall be sent to:

Washington State Public Health Laboratories
Washington State Department of Health
1610 N.E. 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155

(18) If the local health department or the department requests a specimen under subsection (17) of this section, a laboratory director shall provide the Washington state public health laboratories with the information identified in Column C of Table 1 in this section with each specimen submitted.

(19) When referring a specimen to another laboratory for a test for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), a laboratory director shall provide the reference laboratory with the information identified in Column D of Table 1 in this section for each test referral.

(20) When referring a specimen to another laboratory for a test for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), a laboratory

director may provide the reference laboratory with responses to ask on order entry questions under subsection (2)(h) of this section with each test referral.

(21) The department of agriculture shall submit individual case reports for each animal case of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to the department via secure electronic data transmission using a file format or template specified by the department within twenty-four hours of being notified of the animal case.

(22) The department of agriculture shall call the department and confirm receipt immediately after submitting a case report for each animal case of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

(23) When the department of agriculture submits information under subsection (21) of this section, the department shall:

(a) Consult with the department of agriculture on all animal cases; and

(b) Notify the local health department of animal cases submitted to the department.

(24) A local health department shall, using a secure electronic disease surveillance system:

(a) Notify the department immediately upon receiving a case report of positive, negative, or indeterminate test results for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2); and

(b) Submit individual investigation reports of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to the department immediately upon completing the case investigation.

(25) Notifications required under subsection (24)(a) of this section must include the information identified in Column E of Table 1 in this section.

(26) Investigation reports required under subsection (24)(b) of this section must include the information identified in Column F of Table 1 in this section.

(27) A local health department may submit responses to ask on order entry questions under subsection (2)(h) of this section with each notification required under subsection (24)(a) of this section and each investigation report required under subsection (24)(b) of this section.

(28) A local health department shall immediately reassign cases to the department upon determining the patient who is the subject of the case:

(a) Is a resident of another local health department; or

(b) Resides outside Washington state.

(29) A local health department, upon consultation with the department, may forward novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) individual laboratory or case reports submitted by laboratories, health care providers, and health care facilities to the department for data entry and processing.

(30) The local health officer or the state health officer may request additional information of epidemiological or public health value when conducting a case investigation or otherwise for prevention and control of a specific notifiable condition.

(31) Health care providers, health care facilities, laboratories, and the department of agriculture may provide, via secure electronic data transmission using a file format or template specified by the department, additional health information, demographic information, or infectious or noninfectious condition information than is required under this section to the department, local health department, or both when it determines that the additional information will aid the public health authority in protecting the public's health and preventing the spread of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

**Table 1
Required Reporting for Health Care Providers, Health Care Facilities, Laboratories, and Local Health Departments**

	Column A: Health care providers and health care facilities shall provide the following information to the local health department with each case report, and to the laboratory with each test ordered:	Column B: Laboratory directors shall provide the local health department with the following information with each laboratory report:	Column C: Laboratory directors shall provide the department with the following information with each specimen submitted:	Column D: Laboratory directors shall provide the following information when referring a specimen to another laboratory:	Column E: Local health department notifications to the department must include:	Column F: Local health department investigation reports to the department must include:
Patient's name	X	X	X	X	X	X
Patient's notifiable condition	X				X	X
Patient's date of birth, or if not available, patient's age	X	X	X	X	X	X
Patient's sex	X	X	X	X	X	X
Patient's ethnicity, using the categories described in subsection (2)(f) of this section	X	X	X	X	X	X
Patient's race, using the categories described in subsection (2)(g) of this section	X	X	X	X	X	X
Patient's full physical address including zip code	X	X	X	X	X	X
Patient's telephone number	X	X	X	X	X	X
Initial notification source					X	X
Patient's diagnosis of disease or condition	X					
Pertinent laboratory data	X					

	Column A: Health care providers and health care facilities shall provide the following information to the local health department with each case report, and to the laboratory with each test ordered:	Column B: Laboratory directors shall provide the local health department with the following information with each laboratory report:	Column C: Laboratory directors shall provide the department with the following information with each specimen submitted:	Column D: Laboratory directors shall provide the following information when referring a specimen to another laboratory:	Column E: Local health department notifications to the department must include:	Column F: Local health department investigation reports to the department must include:
Test ordered, using harmonized LOINC codes provided by the CDC		X	X	X	X*	X*
Date test ordered		X	X	X	X*	X*
Device identifier		X	X		X*	X*
Type of specimen tested	X	X	X	X	X*	X*
Specimen source, using appropriate SNOMED-CT, or equivalently detailed laboratory local codes, or a specimen-specific LOINC code for test performed		X	X	X	X*	X*
Date of specimen collection	X	X	X	X	X	X
Date specimen received by reporting laboratory		X	X		X*	X*
Accession number or specimen ID		X	X		X*	X*
Test performed and result, using appropriate LOINC and SNOMED codes, as defined by the Laboratory in Vitro Diagnostics (LIVD) Test Code Mapping for SARS-CoV-2 tests provided by the CDC		X	X		X*	X*
Test result date		X	X		X*	X*
Condition symptom onset date (preferred), or alternatively, diagnosis date						X

	Column A: Health care providers and health care facilities shall provide the following information to the local health department with each case report, and to the laboratory with each test ordered:	Column B: Laboratory directors shall provide the local health department with the following information with each laboratory report:	Column C: Laboratory directors shall provide the department with the following information with each specimen submitted:	Column D: Laboratory directors shall provide the following information when referring a specimen to another laboratory:	Column E: Local health department notifications to the department must include:	Column F: Local health department investigation reports to the department must include:
Ordering health care provider's name	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ordering health care provider's National Provider Identifier (as applicable)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ordering health care provider's telephone number	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ordering health care provider's address including zip code	X	X	X	X	X	X
Name and telephone number of the person providing the report	X					
Performing laboratory's name		X	X		X*	X*
Performing laboratory's CLIA number, if known		X	X		X*	X*
Performing laboratory's zip code		X	X		X*	X*
Performing laboratory's phone number		X	X		X*	X*
Date local health department was notified					X	X
Hospitalization status of the patient						X
Whether the patient died during this illness						X
Source or suspected source						X

* Local health departments are not required to submit this information if the notification came from a health care provider or health care facility. All other information indicated in Columns E and F is still required in these instances.

New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 3, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 24, 2021.

Katherine I. Vasquez
Rules Coordinator

WSR 21-08-010
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
(Economic Services Administration)

[Filed March 26, 2021, 8:46 a.m., effective March 26, 2021, 8:46 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: The department is adopting WAC 388-439-0005 What is the pandemic EBT program?, 388-439-0010 Eligibility of pandemic EBT benefits for the 2020-2021 school year, and 388-439-0015 General information about pandemic EBT benefits. Emergency adoption of these rules supports implementation of the pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program for eligible children who do not have access to free or reduced-price school meals due to school closure or lack of in-person instruction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as allowed under Section 1101 of H.R. 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (as amended by Section 4601 of H.R. 8337, Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act of 2020).

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 388-439-0005, 388-439-0010, and 388-439-0015.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 74.08A.120.

Other Authority: H.R. 6201, H.R. 8337.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Emergency adoption of these rules are necessary to support implementation of the P-EBT program which protects the health, safety, and general welfare of Washington residents by supporting access to public assistance.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 3, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making:

Chapter 388-439 WAC

PANDEMIC EBT (P-EBT) PROGRAM

NEW SECTION

WAC 388-439-0005 What is the pandemic EBT program? (1) The pandemic electronic benefits transfer (P-EBT) program is administered by the department of social and health services (department) and provides food benefits to eligible children who do not have access to free or reduced-price school meals due to school closures or lack of in-person instruction caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(2) The following definitions apply to this program:

(a) "Benefit level" means the P-EBT benefit amount provided to an eligible child based on the school's reported meal service to the majority of students enrolled in the school for the majority of the month;

(b) "Direct certification" means a determination that a child is eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals without further application to the national school lunch program due to:

(i) Receiving a benefit from a federal-means tested assistance program, including the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), food distribution program on Indian reservations (FDPIR), some medicaid programs; or

(ii) Other source eligible categories, including children in foster care, children experiencing homelessness, students enrolled in the migrant education program, and children enrolled in head start or early childhood education and assistance program (ECEAP);

(c) "Eligible child" means a child or student, regardless of age, who would have access to free or reduced-price school meals through the national school lunch program (NSLP) and school breakfast program (SBP) during the school year, who is:

(i) Enrolled in a school or registered in a program in Washington state that normally participates in the NSLP;

(ii) Attending a school that has been closed or has reduced attendance or hours for five or more consecutive days during the school year due to the COVID-19 public health emergency designation; and

(iii) Determined by the school to be eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals or attends a school that operates the community eligibility provision or the provision 2 lunch and breakfast program. Students are identified as eligible for free or reduced-price school meals using direct certification or free or reduced-price school meals application;

(d) "Free or reduced-price school meals" means meals provided to students qualified as eligible by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act;

(e) "Full in-person learning" means meal service is available five days per week to the majority of students enrolled in the school for the majority of the month;

(f) "Majority" means more than fifty percent;

(g) "Meal service" means the typical meals (SBP and NSLP) served when school is in session and consumed onsite as part of the school day. Meal service includes both breakfast and lunch. Schools define the meal service provided to the majority of students enrolled in the school for the majority of the month as follows:

(i) "Full remote learning" means no meal service to students on school campus;

(ii) "Hybrid-learning" means partial in-person learning and meal service on school campus. Due to various hybrid-learning models across the state, the following levels have been defined as:

(A) "Level 1" is one-day meal service per week to students on school campus;

(B) "Level 2" is two-day meal service per week to students on school campus;

(C) "Level 3" is three-day meal service per week to students on school campus; or

(D) "Level 4" is four-day meal service per week to school on school campus;

(h) "Operating days" are days a school regularly operates, excluding weekends, breaks, and holidays;

(i) "P-EBT card" means the unique electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card that accesses P-EBT food benefits issued to eligible children;

(j) "Public health emergency" means a federal declaration of a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic as issued by the secretary of health and human services;

(k) "School" means any public or nonprofit private schools, charter schools, and tribal compact schools within the state of Washington;

(l) "School closure" means that the school was closed for in-person or remote learning for the majority of the month, with no meal service available to students enrolled in the school.

NEW SECTION

WAC 388-439-0010 Eligibility of pandemic EBT benefits for the 2020-2021 school year. (1) To be eligible for the pandemic electronic benefits transfer (P-EBT) benefit for the 2020-2021 school year, a student must be:

(a) An eligible child as defined in WAC 388-439-0005 (2)(b) between September 01, 2020, to June 30, 2021; and

(b) Enrolled in a school that had a school closure, full remote learning, or hybrid-learning meal service during the public health emergency as reported by the school.

(2) An eligible child's P-EBT benefit level is calculated for the 2020-2021 school year by:

(a) Using the full daily meal reimbursement rate of six dollars and eighty-two cents for breakfast, lunch, and snack;

(b) Multiplied by the statewide average operating days of eighteen days per month;

(c) Multiplied using the percentage of benefit reimbursement based on the school's reported meal service under WAC

388-439-0005, reducing in twenty percent intervals as the student attends more days in-person with meal service; and

(d) Rounding the total benefit amount up to the nearest dollar.

Meal service reported	Dollar amount for the month
Full remote learning or school closure—Full benefit	\$123
Hybrid learning—Level 1—80% benefit	\$99
Hybrid learning—Level 2—60% benefit	\$74
Hybrid learning—Level 3—40% benefit	\$50
Hybrid learning—Level 4—20% benefit	\$25

(3) A child is not eligible for P-EBT benefits if the school reports full in-person learning for the majority of students enrolled in the school for the majority of the month.

(4) P-EBT benefits are issued for a retroactive period of time to allow schools to report the applicable meal service during the applicable eligibility period.

(a) An initial one-time P-EBT allotment is issued for the months of September 2020 to January 2021; and

(b) Subsequent one-time P-EBT allotments may be issued in two month intervals, using the school's reported meal service for the preceding two months through the end of the school year, June 30, 2021.

(5) An eligible child's benefits will be placed on a P-EBT card under WAC 388-439-0015.

NEW SECTION

WAC 388-439-0015 General information about pandemic EBT benefits. (1) Pandemic electronic benefit transfer (P-EBT) benefits will be deposited into an account accessible with a debit card called a P-EBT card. A P-EBT card will be issued to each eligible child. Each P-EBT card will be:

(a) Linked to an EBT account for each eligible child for P-EBT benefits; and

(b) Mailed to the address on file with the school for the eligible child.

(2) To use a P-EBT account:

(a) The P-EBT card can be used by the eligible child or responsible household member, such as a parent or caregiver, on behalf of the eligible child to access the eligible child's benefits in their EBT account;

(b) A personal identification number (PIN) has to be created that must be used with the P-EBT card to purchase food items;

(c) P-EBT benefits must be accessed from an eligible child's P-EBT card. P-EBT benefits cannot be transferred to a bank account or issued as a check;

(d) P-EBT benefits that are not used within two hundred seventy-four days from the last purchase or deposit activity on the eligible child's account will be removed; and

(e) P-EBT benefits cannot be replaced once redeemed or removed. Families are responsible for keeping an eligible child's P-EBT card and PIN in a safe and secure place.

(3) The purpose of P-EBT benefits is to help low-income families or individuals have a more nutritious diet by providing food benefits to eligible children due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(a) P-EBT benefits are used to buy food items for an eligible child (or youth) from a food retailer authorized to accept supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits by the U.S. department of agriculture food and nutrition service (FNS).

(b) Use P-EBT benefits the same as other food benefits under WAC 388-412-0046 (2)(c).

(c) It is not legal to use P-EBT benefits as described under WAC 388-412-0046 (2)(d).

(d) If a person intentionally misuses P-EBT benefits, they may be:

(i) Subject to fines; or

(ii) Subject to legal action, including criminal prosecution. Department of social and health services (DSHS) will cooperate with state, local, and federal prosecuting authorities to prosecute trafficking in P-EBT benefits.

WSR 21-08-011

RECISSION OF EMERGENCY RULES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Filed March 26, 2021, 8:59 a.m., effective March 28, 2021]

This memo serves as notice that, effective March 28, 2021, the department of health (department) is rescinding the emergency rule, CR-103E for WAC 246-335-510 Definitions—Home health, adding physicians assistants to the list of practitioners authorized to order home health services, which was filed January 28, 2021, and published as WSR 21-04-059.

The department is rescinding this CR-103E rule because the department has adopted permanent rules on this topic. With the adoption of the permanent rule language, the emergency rule is no longer necessary to comply with federal regulation changes.

Individuals requiring information on this rule should contact John Hilger by email john.hilger@doh.wa.gov or phone 360-236-2929.

Tami M. Thompson
Regulatory Affairs Manager

WSR 21-08-013

EMERGENCY RULES DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

[Filed March 26, 2021, 2:20 p.m., effective March 26, 2021, 2:20 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: Encourage petitions for administrative review of initial orders and petitions for judicial review of final

agency orders to be served by United States mail or email on either the secretary of department of children, youth, and families (DCYF) or the DCYF board of appeals instead of personal delivery while state agency buildings are closed to the public in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 110-03-0530 and 110-03-0590.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 34.05.220 and 43.216.065.

Other Authority: Proclamations of the Governor 20-05 and 20-25.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05 declaring a State of Emergency in all counties in the state of Washington as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19. The governor's proclamation directed state agencies to do everything reasonably possible to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 outbreak. As of March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization has classified COVID-19 as a pandemic. Proclamation of the Governor 20-25 established the "Safe Start - Stay Healthy" ["Stay Home - Stay Healthy"] County-by-County Phased Reopening plan that prohibits government buildings from opening to the public until such time as approved by the state department of health. Emergency WAC 110-03-0530 and 110-03-0590 were adopted on an emergency basis on July 29, 2020, under WSR 20-16-079 and November 25, 2020, under WSR 20-24-088. Circumstances have since changed under Proclamations 20-25 through 20-25.12 Roadmap to Recovery, but conditions prompting the State of Emergency declaration still exist and justify the need for emergency rules to remain in effect.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 26, 2021.

Brenda Villarreal
Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-02-031, filed 12/19/19, effective 1/19/20)

WAC 110-03-0530 Requesting review of the initial order. (1) A party must file the review request (petition for review) in writing and it ~~((must))~~ should:

(a) Clearly identify the parts of the initial order with which the party disagrees; and

(b) Clearly present arguments and refer to evidence in the record supporting the party's position.

(2) The petition for review must be filed with the BOA and the party requesting review must serve copies on the other parties and their representatives and OAH at the same time the petition is filed.

(3) ~~((The petition for review must be filed with the BOA at the address stated in the))~~ Instructions for obtaining a review will be sent with the initial order ((or using)). Depending on how the petition is filed, use the following contact information ((appropriate to the method of filing used)):

(a) Mailing address:

DCYF Board of Appeals

P.O. Box 40982

Olympia, WA 98504-0982;

(b) Fax: 360-586-5934;

(c) Email: Call the BOA at 360-902-0278 and request access to the secure email portal; or

(d) Physical address:

DCYF Board of Appeals

1115 Washington Street Southeast

Olympia, WA 98501

~~((Fax: 360-586-5934~~

~~This))~~ (4) The contact information in this subsection is current as of the effective date of these rules; however, parties should file documents using the address or fax information received with the initial order if it is different from the information provided here.

~~((4))~~ (5) The DCYF board of appeals can be contacted by phone at: 360-902-0278.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-02-031, filed 12/19/19, effective 1/19/20)

WAC 110-03-0590 Judicial review. (1) Judicial review is the process of appealing a final agency order to a superior court.

(2) Any party, except DCYF, may appeal a final order by filing a written petition for judicial review in superior court pursuant to RCW 34.05.514 that meets the requirements of RCW 34.05.546. The petition must be properly filed and served, as required by RCW 34.05.542, within thirty calendar days of the date the review judge serves the final order in the case. However, as provided by RCW 34.05.470, if a petition for reconsideration has been properly filed, the thirty day period does not commence until the agency disposes of the petition for reconsideration. Copies of the petition must be served on DCYF, the office of the attorney general, and all other parties at the same time the petition is filed.

(3) To serve DCYF, a copy of the petition must be delivered to the secretary of DCYF or to the DCYF BOA. The

petition must be hand delivered ~~((or))~~, mailed with proof of receipt, or sent by secure email.

(a) The physical location of the secretary is:

DCYF Office of the Secretary
1500 Jefferson Street Southeast
Olympia, WA 98501

The mailing address of the secretary is:

DCYF Office of the Secretary
P.O. Box 40975
Olympia, WA 98504-0975

(b) The physical location and mailing address for the DCYF BOA are as stated in WAC 110-03-0530.

(c) To serve by email, call the BOA at 360-902-0278 and request access to the secure email portal.

(4) Service on the office of the attorney general and other parties of a copy of the petition for judicial review may be made at the following locations:

(a) The office of the attorney general may be served personally or by delivery at:

Office of the Attorney General
7141 Cleanwater Drive S.W.
Tumwater, WA 98501

The mailing address of the office of the attorney general is:

Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 40124
Olympia, WA 98504-0124

(b) Each party must be served at each party's address of record.

(5) A party may file a petition for judicial review only after it has exhausted administrative remedies, as provided under RCW 34.05.534.

(6) Filing a petition for judicial review of a final order does not stay the effectiveness of the final order.

WSR 21-08-014

EMERGENCY RULES

DEPARTMENT OF

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

[Filed March 26, 2021, 2:27 p.m., effective March 26, 2021, 2:27 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: Modify the early achievers quality rating and improvement system requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic. More specifically, remove the deadline by which a provider must enroll in the program and the requirement to reach quality rating levels. Child care and early learning providers who participate in working connections and seasonal child care must still enroll in the early achievers program, follow its operating guidelines, submit attendance records electronically, and renew their facility ratings every three years.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 110-15-0125 and 110-15-3750.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 43.216.055 and 43.216.065.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05 declaring a State of Emergency in all counties in the state of Washington as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19. The governor's proclamation directed state agencies to do everything reasonably possible to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 outbreak. As of March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization has classified COVID-19 as a pandemic. The effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout Washington state significantly impact the life and health of our people, as well as our economy, and pose particular challenges to the availability of quality early learning and child care services for families with low incomes. The emergency amendments to WAC 110-15-0125 and 110-15-3750 address these challenges by waving and suspending some of the regulatory system requirements that delay child care providers from making child care available to the children of essential staff who are from low income families who require child care services during the COVID-19 pandemic. WAC 110-15-0125 and 110-15-3750 were amended on an emergency basis on March 30, 2020, under WSR 20-08-098; July 29, 2020, under WSR 20-16-072; and November 25, 2020, under WSR 20-24-090. Proclamation 20-31.11 issued January 19, 2021, relieves providers from meeting certain early achievers program deadlines until the State of Emergency terminates or the proclamation is rescinded. This change in circumstances makes it necessary for the emergency rules filed under WSR 20-16-072 to remain in force.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 26, 2021.

Brenda Villarreal
Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-01-111, filed 12/18/18, effective 1/18/19)

WAC 110-15-0125 Approved child care providers.

(1) In-home/relative providers. To be approved to receive benefits under the WCCC program, an in-home/relative provider must comply with the applicable requirements contained in this chapter, chapter 43.216 RCW, and chapters 110-06 and 110-16 WAC.

(2) Licensed providers.

(a) To be approved to receive payment under the WCCC program, a licensed provider must comply with the requirements of this chapter, chapter 43.216 RCW, ~~((and))~~ chapter ~~((s))~~ 110-06, 110-300~~((, 110-300A, 110-300B, and))~~ or 110-305 WAC.

(b) A provider who cares for a child who is a Washington resident in a state that borders Washington must:

(i) Be licensed to provide care in the bordering state;

(ii) Comply with the bordering state's licensing regulations;

(iii) Comply with the electronic attendance requirements contained in WAC 110-15-0126.

(c) The lesser of the following will be paid to a qualified, licensed child care provider in a state that borders Washington:

(i) The provider's private pay rate for that child; or

(ii) The DCYF maximum WCCC subsidy daily rate for the DCYF region where the child resides.

(d) A licensed provider in a state that borders Washington that receives WCCC subsidy payment to care for a child who is a Washington resident is not required or eligible to participate in the early achievers program or to receive quality improvement awards, tiered reimbursements, or other awards and incentives associated with the early achievers program.

(3) Certified providers. To be approved to receive payment under the WCCC program, a certified provider must comply with the certification requirements contained in this chapter, chapter 43.216 RCW, ~~((and))~~ chapter ~~((s))~~ 110-06, and chapter 110-300~~((, 110-300A, 110-300B, and))~~ or 110-305 WAC. Certified providers include:

(a) Tribal child care facilities that meet the requirements of tribal law;

(b) Child care facilities on a military installation;

(c) Child care facilities operated on public school property by a school district; and

(d) Seasonal day camps that contract with DCYF to provide subsidized child care.

(4) ~~((Early achievers program requirements for licensed and certified child care providers that))~~ To be eligible to receive WCCC payments, licensed or certified Early Achiever program participants who receive their first WCCC payment on or after July 1, 2016 must:

~~((A licensed or certified child care provider that first receives a WCCC subsidy payment on or after July 1, 2016, for providing nonschool age child care must complete the following activities to be eligible to receive additional WCCC payments:~~

~~((i) Enroll in the early achievers program; and within thirty days of receiving the first WCCC subsidy payment. A licensed or certified provider that fails to meet this require-~~

ment will lose DCYF approval to receive WCCC subsidy payments for providing nonschool age child care;

(ii) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program within twelve months of enrollment. A licensed or certified provider that fails to meet this requirement will lose DCYF approval to receive DCYF subsidy payments for providing nonschool age child care;

(iii) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program within thirty months of enrollment. A licensed or certified provider that fails to meet this requirement within thirty months of enrollment in the early achievers program, must complete remedial activities with DCYF and rate at a level 3 or higher within six months of beginning remedial activities. A licensed or certified provider that fails to rate at a level 3 or higher within six months of beginning remedial activities will lose DCYF approval to receive WCCC subsidy payments for providing nonschool age child care; and

(iv)) (b) Renew their facility rating every three years ((and maintain a rating level 3 or higher)). If a licensed or certified provider fails to renew their facility rating ((or maintain a rating level 3 or higher,)) the licensed or certified provider will lose DCYF approval to receive WCCC subsidy payments for providing nonschool age child care.

((b)) (c) Licensed and certified providers must comply with the provisions for participation as outlined in the early achievers operating guidelines. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in a licensed or certified provider's loss of DCYF approval to receive WCCC subsidy payments for providing nonschool age child care.

(5) ((Early achievers program requirements for licensed and certified child care providers that received a WCCC payment on or between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016:

(a)) A licensed or certified child care provider that received a WCCC subsidy payment on or between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016((, for providing nonschool age child care, must complete the following activities to be eligible to receive additional WCCC subsidy payments:

(i) Enroll in the early achievers program by August 1, 2016. A licensed or certified provider that fails to meet this requirement will lose DCYF approval to receive WCCC subsidy payments for providing nonschool age child care;

(ii) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program by August 1, 2017. A provider who failed to meet this requirement will lose DCYF approval to receive WCCC subsidy payments for nonschool age child care; and

(iii) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program by December 31, 2019. A licensed or certified provider that fails to meet this requirement by December 31, 2019, must complete remedial activities with DCYF and rate at a level 3 or higher by June 30, 2020. A licensed or certified provider that fails to receive a rating by December 31, 2019, or fails to rate at a level 3 or higher by June 30, 2020, after completing remedial activities will lose DCYF approval to receive WCCC subsidy payments for providing nonschool age child care.

(b) Licensed and certified providers)) must renew their facility rating every three years. ((and maintain a rating level 3 or higher)). If a licensed or certified provider fails to renew their facility rating or maintain a rating level 3 or higher, licensed or certified providers)) they will lose DCYF

approval to receive WCCC subsidy payments for providing nonschool age child care.

(6) If a licensed or certified child care provider receiving WCCC subsidy payment for providing nonschool age has successfully completed all level 2 activities and is waiting to be rated, the licensed or certified provider may continue to receive WCCC subsidy payments ((pending the successful completion of the level 3 rating activity)).

DCYF-contracted seasonal day camps have a contract with ((DEL)) DCYF to provide subsidized child care.

Reviser's note: RCW 34.05.395 requires the use of underlining and deletion marks to indicate amendments to existing rules. The rule published above varies from its predecessor in certain respects not indicated by the use of these markings.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-14-078, filed 6/29/18, effective 7/1/18)

WAC 110-15-3750 Eligible child care providers. To receive payment under the SCC program, a consumer's child care provider must be:

(1) Currently licensed as required by chapter ((43.215)) 43.216 RCW and ((170-295, 170-296A, or 170-297)) chapters 110-300 or 110-305 WAC;

(2) Meeting their state's licensing regulations, for providers who care for children in states bordering Washington. The SCC program pays the lesser of the following to qualified child care facilities in bordering states:

(a) The provider's private pay rate for that child; or

(b) The state maximum child care subsidy rate for the ((DSSH)) DCYF region where the child resides; or

(3) Exempt from licensing but certified by ((DEL)), DCYF such as:

(a) Tribal child care facilities that meet the requirements of tribal law;

(b) Child care facilities on a military installation; and

(c) Child care facilities operated on public school property by a school district.

(4) ((New child care providers, as defined in WAC 170-290-0003, who are)) To be eligible to receive a state subsidy payment, an agency as defined in RCW 43.217.010 that is subject to licensure, or subject to licensure or ((are certified)) a person or facility authorized to receive state subsidy ((as required by chapter 43.215 RCW and as described by chapter 170-295, 170-296A, or 170-297 WAC)) under chapter 43.216 RCW, who received a subsidy payment for nonschool age child care on or after July 1, 2016, and received no such payments during the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, must:

(a) Enroll in the early achievers program; ((within thirty days of receiving the initial state subsidy payment. A provider who fails to meet this requirement will lose eligibility to receive state subsidy payments for nonschool age child care;

(i) Out-of-state providers that provide care for children receiving Washington state child care subsidies are neither required nor eligible to participate in early achievers; and

~~(ii) Out of state providers are not eligible to receive quality improvement awards, tiered reimbursement, or other awards and incentives associated with participation in early achievers.))~~

(b) Adhere to the provisions for participation as outlined in the most recent version of the *Early Achievers Operating Guidelines*. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a provider's loss of eligibility to receive state subsidy payments nonschool age child care; and

~~(e) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program within twelve months of enrollment. A provider who fails to meet this requirement will lose eligibility to receive state subsidy payments for nonschool age child care;~~

~~(d) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program within thirty months of enrollment. If an eligible provider fails to rate at a level 3 or higher within thirty months of enrollment in the early achievers program, the provider must complete remedial activities with the department and rate at a level 3 or higher within six months of beginning remedial activities. A provider who fails to receive a rating within thirty months of enrollment or fails to rate at a level 3 or higher within six months of beginning remedial activities will lose eligibility to receive state subsidy payments for nonschool age child care; and~~

~~(e)(c) Maintain an up to date rating by renewing their facility rating every three years ((and maintaining a rating level 3 or higher)). If a provider fails to renew their facility rating ((or maintain a rating level 3 or higher)), they will lose eligibility to receive state subsidy payments nonschool age child care.~~

(5) Existing child care providers who are subject to licensure or are certified to receive state subsidy as required by chapter ~~((43.215))~~ 43.216 RCW ~~and as described by chapter 170-295, 170-296A, or 170-297 WAC;~~) who have received a subsidy payment for a nonschool age child in the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, must:

~~(a) Enroll in the early achievers program by August 1, 2016. A provider who fails to meet this requirement will lose eligibility to receive state subsidy payments for nonschool age child care;~~

~~(i) Out of state providers that provide care for children receiving Washington state child care subsidies are neither required nor eligible to participate in early achievers; and~~

~~(ii) Out of state providers are not eligible to receive quality improvement awards, tiered reimbursement, or other awards and incentives associated with participation in early achievers.~~

~~(b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program by August 1, 2017. A provider who fails to meet this requirement will lose eligibility to receive state subsidy payments for nonschool age child care;~~

~~(e) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program by December 31, 2019;~~

~~(d) If an existing provider fails to rate at a level 3 or higher by December 31, 2019, in the early achievers program, the provider must complete remedial activities with the department and rate at a level 3 or higher by June 30, 2020. A provider who fails to receive a rating by December 31, 2019, or fails to rate at a level 3 or higher by June 30, 2020, after~~

~~completing remedial activities will lose eligibility to receive state subsidy payments for nonschool age child care; and~~

~~(e) Maintain an up to date rating by renewing their facility rating every three years ((and maintaining a rating level 3 or higher)). If a provider fails to renew their facility rating ((or maintain a rating level 3 or higher)), they will lose eligibility to receive state subsidy payments nonschool age child care.~~

~~(6) If a child care provider ((serving nonschool age children, as defined in WAC 170-290-0003, and)) receiving state subsidy payments for nonschool age child care has successfully completed all level 2 activities and is waiting to be rated, the provider may continue to receive a state subsidy.((pending the successful completion of the level 3 rating activity.))~~

Reviser's note: RCW 34.05.395 requires the use of underlining and deletion marks to indicate amendments to existing rules. The rule published above varies from its predecessor in certain respects not indicated by the use of these markings.

Reviser's note: The typographical errors in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appear in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

WSR 21-08-015

EMERGENCY RULES

DEPARTMENT OF

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

[Filed March 26, 2021, 2:31 p.m., effective March 26, 2021, 2:31 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: During the COVID-19 pandemic, relieve department of children, youth, and families from (1) in-person contact for the purpose of receiving or fulfilling public records requests, copying public records, or allowing inspection of public records, and (2) the requirement to respond to a request for public records within five days of receiving the request.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 110-01-0100 and 110-01-0200.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 43.216.065; and chapter 42.56 RCW.

Other Authority: Proclamations of the Governor 20-05 and 20-28.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05 declaring a State of Emergency in all counties in the state of Washington as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19. The governor's proclamation directed state agencies to do everything reasonably possible to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 outbreak. As of March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization has classified COVID-19 as a pandemic. Proclamation of the Governor 20-28 amends Proclamation 20-05 and directs state agencies to

limit personal contact through social distancing and limit person-to-person contact. Proclamation 20-28 waives and suspends any in-person contact related to public records requests and the requirement that a state agency respond to requests within five days of receipt. WAC 110-01-0100 and 110-01-0200 were amended on an emergency basis on March 31, 2020, under WSR 20-08-123, July 29, 2020, under WSR 20-16-074, and November 25, 2020, under WSR 20-24-089. Proclamation 20-28.15 issued January 19, 2021, relieves state agencies from complying with provisions of the Public Records Act that involve in-person contact until the State of Emergency terminates or until rescinded. This change in circumstances makes it necessary for the emergency rules filed under WSR 20-24-089 to remain in force.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 26, 2021.

Brenda Villarreal
Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-14-078, filed 6/29/18, effective 7/1/18)

WAC 110-01-0100 Availability of public records. Pursuant to proclamation 20-28 and any subsequent proclamation, or other gubernatorial or legislative action suspending the requirements of RCW 42.56.080, .090, or .100, public inspection is not permitted. ~~((Public records are available for inspection and copying during the department's normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding legal holidays. A department staff person must be present at all times when a record is being inspected. Appointments are not required, but significantly help the department provide prompt and efficient service. Some department records may be stored in other locations, in computer storage systems, or the state records warehouse, and may take time to identify and gather. Other records may be exempt from disclosure. Original records cannot be removed from the inspection location. If required by law, department staff must redact information in a record before making it available for inspection. Department staff will make copies of records on request.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-14-078, filed 6/29/18, effective 7/1/18)

WAC 110-01-0200 How the department responds to public records requests. The department will respond to public record requests in a reasonable amount of time given the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. ~~((Within five business days of receiving the request,))~~ When the department receives a request for records, the department will either:

- (1) Provide the record;
- (2) Acknowledge the request and give a reasonable time estimate of how long the department will take to provide records;
- (3) Contact the requestor to clarify the request if it isn't understood by the public records officer; or
- (4) Deny all or part of the request in writing, with reasons for the denial. The explanation will include the law that the department relied upon in its denial.

At his or her discretion, the public records officer may send the requested records by email, fax, postal mail, or commercial delivery. The records may be delivered on paper, computer or compact discs, or other methods.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

WSR 21-08-018
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-39—Filed March 26, 2021, 4:13 p.m., effective March 31, 2021, 11:59 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: March 31, 2021, 11:59 p.m.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to implement hard closure dates for commercial crab harvest in Crab Management Region 1, 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 for the remainder of the 2020/2021 Puget Sound commercial crab season.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-45500V; and amending WAC 220-340-455.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: (1) Closes Catch Areas 21A, 21B and 22B within Crab Management Region 1 and all of Regions 3-1 and 3-2 to commercial crab harvest on March 31, 2021, due to hard closure dates agreed to with tribal comanagers.

(2) Continues to permit commercial crab harvest in Puget Sound within Catch Areas 22A, 20A and 20B within Crab Management Region 1 and all catch areas within Region 3-3 until April 15, 2021, per management plan agreement with tribal comanagers.

(3) Maintains the closure of Regions 2 East and 2 West.

(4) Maintains current pot limits in Catch Areas 22A, 20A and 20B within Crab Management Region 1 and Region 3-3.

(5) Closes commercial harvest in Region 1 and Region 3-3 on April 15, 2021, as agreed to by tribal comanagers.

Catch Areas 21A, 21B and 22B within Crab Management Region 1 and all catch areas within Regions 3-1, 3-2 based on the hard closure date outlined in historical comanagement harvest agreements. Catch Areas 22A, 20A and 20B within Crab Management Region 1 and all catch areas within Region 3-3 will close on April 15, 2021, based on the hard closure date outlined in historical comanagement harvest agreements. In Regions 1 and 3-3 the available quota is sufficient to accommodate continued commercial harvest. These provisions are in conformity with agreed management plans with applicable tribes. These management plans are entered into as required by court order. The Puget Sound Dungeness crab commercial fishing season is structured to meet harvest allocation objectives negotiated between state and tribal comanagers and outlined in related management plans.

There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules. Further adjustment of season structure may be made pending updated harvest data.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 26, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-45500W Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Puget Sound. Effective 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2021, until further notice, the following provisions of WAC 220-340-455 regarding Puget Sound commercial crab fishing seasons are modified as written below, all other provisions of WAC 220-340-455 not addressed herein remain in effect unless otherwise amended by emergency rule:

(1) It is illegal to harvest Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in Crab Management Regions 2 East, 2 West, 3-1, and 3-2.

(2) It is illegal to harvest Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in Catch Areas 21A, 21B and 22B within Crab Management Region 1.

(3) It is permissible to harvest Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in Catch Areas 22A, 20A and 20B within Crab Management Region 1, and Region 3-3.

(4) It is permissible to harvest Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in the following areas in Crab Management Region 1:

(a) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 20A between a line from the boat ramp at the western boundary of Birch Bay State Park to the western point of the entrance of the Birch Bay Marina and a line from the same boat ramp to Birch Point.

(b) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in Deer Harbor north of a line projected from Steep Point to Pole Pass.

(5) It is unlawful for any person to deploy more than 75 pots per license per buoy tag number in Crab Management Regions 3-3 with the intent of harvesting Dungeness crab for commercial purposes.

(6) It is unlawful for any person to deploy more than 50 pots per license per buoy tag number in Catch Areas 22A, 20A and 20B within Crab Management Region 1 with the intent of harvesting Dungeness crab for commercial purposes.

(7) All remaining, undeployed buoy tags per license per region must be onboard the designated vessel and available for immediate inspection.

(8) Effective 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2021 until further notice, it is illegal to harvest Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in Crab Management Regions 1 and 3-3.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed effective 11:59 p.m. March 31, 2021:

WAC 220-340-45500V Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Puget Sound. (21-10)

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

WSR 21-08-026

EMERGENCY RULES

HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

[Filed March 30, 2021, 10:00 a.m., effective March 30, 2021, 10:00 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: The health care authority (HCA) is amending WAC 182-543-0500 and 182-551-2040 to allow ordering of home health services, including medical supplies, by nonphysician practitioners.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 182-543-0500 and 182-551-2040.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160.

Other Authority: Not applicable.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This rule making is in response to the Governor's Proclamation 20-05 declaring a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services declaration of a public health emergency related to COVID-19. This emergency rule making is necessary to preserve the public health, safety, and general welfare by immediately allowing nonphysician practitioners the ability to order home health services, including medical supplies. This flexibility is necessary to ensure that when products and services are determined to have evidence of efficacy in treating COVID-19 or its symptoms, they are made available to clients as a covered benefit as quickly as possible.

Since the emergency rule making filed under WSR 21-01-002, HCA filed the proposed rules (CR-102) under WSR 21-06-100 and a public hearing is scheduled for April 6, 2021.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 30, 2021.

Wendy Barcus
Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-24-021, filed 11/27/18, effective 1/1/19)

WAC 182-543-0500 General. (1) The federal government considers medical equipment, supplies, and appliances, which the medicaid agency refers to throughout this chapter as medical equipment, services under the medicaid program.

(2) The agency pays for medical equipment, including modifications, accessories, and repairs, according to agency rules and subject to the limitations and requirements in this chapter when the medical equipment is:

(a) Medically necessary, as defined in WAC 182-500-0070;

(b) Authorized, as required within this chapter, chapters 182-501 and 182-502 WAC, and the agency's published billing instructions and provider notices; and

(c) Billed according to this chapter, chapters 182-501 and 182-502 WAC, and the agency's published billing instructions and provider notices.

(3) For the initiation of medical equipment under WAC 182-551-2122, the face-to-face encounter must be related to the primary reason the client requires medical equipment and must occur no later than six months prior to the start of services.

(4) The face-to-face encounter must be conducted by the ordering physician, a nonphysician practitioner as described in WAC 182-500-0075, or the attending acute, or post-acute physician, for beneficiaries admitted to home health immediately after an acute or post-acute stay.

(5) ~~((If a nonphysician practitioner as described in WAC 182-500-0075 (or the attending physician when a client is discharged from an acute hospital stay) performs the face-to-face encounter, the nonphysician practitioner (or attending physician) must communicate the clinical findings of that face-to-face encounter to the ordering physician.))~~ Physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs), and physician assistants (PAs) may complete the face-to-face encounter. Those clinical findings must be incorporated into a written or electronic document included in the client's medical record.

(6) The agency requires prior authorization for covered medical equipment when the clinical criteria set forth in this chapter are not met, including the criteria associated with the expedited prior authorization process.

(a) The agency evaluates requests requiring prior authorization on a case-by-case basis to determine medical necessity as defined in WAC 182-500-0070, according to the process found in WAC 182-501-0165.

(b) Refer to WAC 182-543-7000, 182-543-7100, 182-543-7200, and 182-543-7300 for specific details regarding authorization.

(7) The agency bases its determination about which medical equipment requires prior authorization (PA) or expedited prior authorization (EPA) on utilization criteria (see WAC 182-543-7100 for PA and WAC 182-543-7300 for EPA). The agency considers all of the following when establishing utilization criteria:

- (a) Cost;
- (b) The potential for utilization abuse;
- (c) A narrow therapeutic indication; and
- (d) Safety.

(8) The agency evaluates a request for equipment that does not meet the definition of medical equipment or that is determined not medically necessary under the provisions of WAC 182-501-0160. When early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) applies, the agency evaluates a noncovered service, equipment, or supply according to the process in WAC 182-501-0165 to determine if it is medically necessary, safe, effective, and not experimental (see WAC 182-543-0100 for EPSDT rules).

(9) The agency may terminate a provider's participation with the agency according to WAC 182-502-0030 and 182-502-0040.

(10) The agency evaluates a request for a service that meets the definition of medical equipment but has been determined to be experimental or investigational, under the provisions of WAC 182-501-0165.

(11) If the agency denies a requested service, the agency notifies the client in writing that the client may request an administrative hearing under chapter 182-526 WAC. (For MCO enrollees, see WAC 182-538-110.)

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-24-023, filed 11/27/18, effective 1/1/19)

WAC 182-551-2040 Face-to-face encounter requirements. (1) During the current COVID-19 public health emergency, the face-to-face requirements of this section may be met using telemedicine or telehealth services. See WAC 182-551-2125.

(2) The medicaid agency pays for home health services provided under this chapter only when the face-to-face encounter requirements in this section are met.

~~((2))~~ (3) For initiation of home health services, with the exception of medical equipment under WAC 182-551-2122, the face-to-face encounter must be related to the primary reason the client requires home health services and must occur within ninety days before or within the thirty days after the start of the services.

~~((3))~~ (4) For the initiation of medical equipment under WAC 182-551-2122, the face-to-face encounter must be related to the primary reason the client requires medical equipment and must occur no later than six months prior to the start of services.

~~((4))~~ (5) The face-to-face encounter may be conducted by the ordering physician, a nonphysician practitioner as described in WAC 182-500-0075, or the attending acute, or post-acute physician, for beneficiaries admitted to home health immediately after an acute or post-acute stay.

~~((5) If a nonphysician practitioner as described in WAC 182-500-0075 (or the attending physician when a client is discharged from an acute hospital stay) performs the face-to-face encounter, the nonphysician practitioner (or attending physician) must communicate the clinical findings of that face-to-face encounter to the ordering physician.)~~

(6) Physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs), and physician assistants (PAs) may complete the face-to-face encounter. Those clinical findings must be incorporated into a written or electronic document included in the client's medical record.

~~((6))~~ (7) For all home health services except medical equipment under WAC 182-551-2122, the physician, ARNP, or PA responsible for ordering the services must:

(a) Document that the face-to-face encounter, which is related to the primary reason the client requires home health services, occurred within the required time frames described in subsection ~~((2))~~ (3) of this section prior to the start of home health services; and

(b) Indicate the practitioner who conducted the encounter, and the date of the encounter.

~~((7))~~ (8) For medical equipment under WAC 182-551-2122, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, an ordering physician, a nonphysician practitioner as described in WAC

182-500-0075, except for certified nurse midwives, or the attending physician when a client is discharged from an acute hospital stay, must:

(a) Document that the face-to-face encounter, which is related to the primary reason the client requires home health services, occurred within the required time frames described in subsection ~~((3))~~ (4) of this section prior to the start of home health services; and

(b) Indicate the practitioner who conducted the encounter, and the date of the encounter.

~~((8) The face to face encounter may occur through telemedicine. See WAC 182-551-2125.)~~

WSR 21-08-028
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-40—Filed March 30, 2021, 4:52 p.m., effective March 30, 2021, 4:52 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: This emergency rule will allow nontreaty commercial fishing opportunities in the Columbia River while protecting fish listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This rule implements federal court orders governing Washington's relationship with treaty Indian tribes, federal law governing Washington's relationship with Oregon, and Washington fish and wildlife commission policy guidance for Columbia River fisheries.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-358-03000Y; and amending WAC 220-358-030.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Other Authority: *United States v. Oregon*, Civil No. 68-513-KI (D. Or.), Order Adopting 2018-2027 *United States v. Oregon* Management Agreement (February 26, 2018) (Doc. No. 2607-1). *Northwest Gillnetters Ass'n v. Sandison*, 95 Wn.2d 638, 628 P.2d 800 (1981); Washington fish and wildlife commission policies concerning Columbia River fisheries; 40 Stat. 515 (Columbia River Compact).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Modifies 2021 commercial select area spring seasons. Impacts to nonlocal stocks are expected to be minimal and local Chinook stocks reared for the select area sites are available for harvest. The fishery is consistent with the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement and the associated biological opinion. Conforms Washington state rules with Oregon state rules. Regulation is consistent with compact actions of February 16, March 23, and March 30, 2021. There is insufficient time to promulgate permanent rules.

Washington and Oregon jointly regulate Columbia River fisheries under the congressionally ratified Columbia River Compact. Four Indian tribes have treaty fishing rights in the

Columbia River. The treaties preempt state regulations that fail to allow the tribes an opportunity to take a fair share of the available fish, and the states must manage other fisheries accordingly. *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Or. 1969). A court order sets the current parameters. *United States v. Oregon*, Civil No. 68-513-KI (D. Or.), Order Adopting 2018-2027 *United States v. Oregon* Management Agreement (February 26, 2018) (Doc. No. 2607-1). Some salmon and steelhead stocks in the Columbia River are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA. On February 23, 2018, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a biological opinion under 16 U.S.C. § 1536 that allows for some incidental take of these species in the fisheries as described in the 2018-2027 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.

Some Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead stocks are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA. The Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commissions have developed policies to guide the implementation of such biological opinions in the states' regulation of nontreaty fisheries.

Columbia River nontreaty fisheries are monitored very closely to ensure compliance with federal court orders, the ESA, and commission guidelines. Because conditions change rapidly, the fisheries are managed almost exclusively by

emergency rule. Representatives from the Washington (WDFW) and Oregon (ODFW) departments of fish and wildlife convene public hearings and take public testimony when considering proposals for new emergency rules. WDFW and ODFW then adopt regulations reflecting agreements reached.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1; Federal Rules or Standards: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 30, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-358-03000Z Columbia River seasons below Bonneville. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-358-030, WAC 220-358-040, and WAC 220-335-050, it is unlawful for a person to take or possess salmon, sturgeon, and shad for commercial purposes from Columbia River Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E and Select Areas, except during the times and conditions listed below:

(1) Tongue Point and South Channel:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 20	Tues (morning)	12:30 am - 4:30 am	4 hrs
Apr 23	Fri (morning)	4:00 am - 8:00 am	4 hrs
Apr 27 - Apr 30	Tue, Thur (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
May 3 - Jun 15	Mon, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	19 nights
Jun 17 - Jul 2	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	5 nights

Tongue Point only:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 1 - Apr 2	Thu - Fri (night)	10:00 pm - 2:00 am	4 hrs

South Channel only:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 1 - Apr 2	Fri - Sat (night)	10:00 pm - 2:00 am	4 hrs
Apr 6	Tue (morning)	3:30 am - 7:30 am	4 hrs
Apr 8	Thu (night)	6:30 pm - 10:30 pm	4 hrs
Apr 12 - Apr 13	Mon - Tue (night)	8:30 pm - 12:30 am	4 hrs
Apr 14 - Apr 15	Thu - Fri (night)	9:30 pm - 1:30 am	4 hrs

(a) Area:

The Tongue Point Winter-Spring Subarea is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from the end of the southern-most pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility projecting in a straight line through flashing red USCG light "6" to the shore of Mott Island, a line from a regulatory marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the northwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker located on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River projecting easterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island. If the marker on the Oregon shore is not in place, the upper boundary is defined by a line projecting easterly from a point (46°10'57.7"N latitude 123°44'35.3"W longitude) on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island.

For summer fisheries, the open waters include the entire Tongue Point Select Area as described in OAR 635-042-0170 (1)(a) and WAC 220-301-010 (11)(c). If the marker on the eastern shore of Tongue Point is not in place, the downstream boundary is defined by a line projecting from a point (46°12'31.1"N latitude 123°45'34.0"W longitude) on the

eastern shore of Tongue Point to the flashing green USCG light "3" on the rock jetty at the northwest tip of Mott Island.

The South Channel Select Area is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from a regulatory marker on the Oregon shore at John Day Point projecting northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker on Settler Point projecting northwesterly to the flashing red USCG light "10" then projecting westerly to the eastern tip of Burnside Island.

(b) Gear: Gillnets:

Winter season (Through Apr 18): 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction

Spring and Summer seasons (Apr 20 - Jun 18): 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh size restriction

The maximum net length is 1,500 feet (250 fathoms).

In the Tongue Point winter-spring subarea and the Tongue Point Select Area, the lead line weight may not exceed two pounds per any one fathom;

In the South Channel Select Area, there is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight and anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.

(2) Blind Slough and Knappa Slough:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 19 - Apr 23	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
Apr 27 - Apr 30	Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
May 3 - Jun 15	Mon, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	19 nights
Jun 17 - Jul 2	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	5 nights

Blind Slough only:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 1 - Apr 13	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	4 nights
Apr 14 - Apr 15	Wed - Thu (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs

Knappa Slough only:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 1 - Apr 2	Thu - Fri (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs
Apr 5 - Apr 6	Mon - Tue (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs
Apr 8 - Apr 9	Thu - Fri (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs
Apr 12 - Apr 13	Mon - Tue (night)	7:00 pm - 07:00 am	12 hrs
Apr 14 - Apr 15	Wed - Thu (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs

(a) Area:

The Blind Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Blind Slough and Gnat Creek from a north-south line represented by regulatory markers at the mouth of Blind Slough upstream to a regulatory marker in Gnat Creek located approximately 0.5 miles southeasterly (upstream) of the Barndse Road Bridge.

The Knappa Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Knappa Slough, Calendar Slough, and Big Creek Slough bounded to the north (upstream) by a line projecting from a regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Karlson Island to the northernmost regulatory marker at the mouth of Blind Slough and bounded to the west (downstream) by a line pro-

jecting southerly from a regulatory marker on the southwest tip of Karlson Island through regulatory markers on the western tips of Minaker Island to a marker on the Oregon shore.

The waters of Knappa Slough within a 100-foot radius of the railroad bridge crossing Big Creek are closed. Prior to May 3, the western (downstream) boundary in Knappa Slough is a north-south line projecting through the easternmost tip of Minaker Island and regulatory markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore.

(b) Gear: Gillnets:

Winter season (through Apr 15): 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction.

Spring and Summer seasons (Apr 19 - Jun 18): 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh size restriction.

The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms).

There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.

(c) Miscellaneous:

Permanent transportation rules in effect. In accordance with WACs 220-69-230 (1)(i) and 220-22-010 (9)(a-b), com-

mercial fishers are expected, and fish dealers are required, to report landings for winter-summer fisheries in Knappa Slough and Blind Slough separately using appropriate zone codes. Fish dealers are requested to keep landings from these two sites separate to aid in sampling.

(3) Deep River Select Area:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 1 - Apr 2	Tue - Fri (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hours
Apr 5 - Apr 6	Mon - Tue (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hours
Apr 19 - Apr 23	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
Apr 27 - Apr 30	Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
May 3 - Jun 15	Mon, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	19 nights

(a) Area:

From the mouth of Deep River defined as a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore, upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.

(b) Gear: Gillnets:

Winter season (through Apr 1): 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction.

Spring and Summer seasons (Apr 19 - Jun 15): 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh size restriction.

The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms).

There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.

Nets may not fully cross navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream, or channel any net longer than three-fourths the width of the stream (WAC 220-20-015(1)). It shall be unlawful in any area to use, operate, or carry aboard a commercial fishing vessel a licensed net or combination of nets, whether fishing singly or separately, in excess of the maximum lawful size or length prescribed for a single net in that area, except as otherwise provided for in the rules and regulations of the department WAC 220-20-010(17).

(c) Miscellaneous:

Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by WDFW staff.

Winter season: fishers are required to call 360-846-5268 or 360-795-0319 to confirm the place and time of sampling.

Spring season: a sampling station will be established at WDFW's Oneida Road boat ramp, about 0.5 miles upstream of the Deep River area downstream boundary (USCG navigation marker #16).

(4) Allowable Sales: Salmon (except Chum), white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of three white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.

(5) 24-hour quick reporting is in effect for Washington buyers (WAC 220-352-315). Permanent transportation rules in effect. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving

tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Unique catch reporting codes have been established for Blind Slough and Knappa Slough to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for winter/spring fisheries. Blind Slough and Knappa Slough have unique catch reporting codes to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for winter/spring fisheries.

(6) Multi-Net Rule: Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater (WAC 220-358-030(2)).

(7) Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required.

Reviser's note: The unnecessary underscoring in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 220-358-03000Y Columbia River seasons below Bonneville. (21-38)

WSR 21-08-031
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-41—Filed March 31, 2021, 9:32 a.m., effective March 31, 2021, 9:32 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: Amends coastal commercial crab rules.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-42000I and 220-340-45000Y; and amending WAC 220-340-420 and 220-340-450.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Mandatory minimum meat recovery requirements for coastal crab will be achieved by the opening dates contained herein. The Washington department of health has determined that while the meat in Dungeness crab in all areas of the Washington coast is safe for human consumption, the viscera from crab caught between the Washington/Oregon border and Point Chehalis, Washington including Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor are unsafe for human consumption and have issued a recommendation requiring evisceration of all crab caught in this area. To strengthen the enforcement of an evisceration requirement needed to protect public health, all crab landed into Washington from any west coast area south of Point Chehalis, Washington and Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor must be eviscerated. Domoic acid levels in the crab viscera in the area north of Point Chehalis, Washington (except in Grays Harbor) are below federal action levels and are considered safe for human consumption, landings of crab from this area do not require similar processing restrictions to remove the viscera necessary to protect public health. However, restrictions on where fishermen may fish their gear are needed to ensure that crab are not harvested from areas with high domoic acid in the viscera (south of Point Chehalis, Washington and Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor) and reported as landings from areas where domoic acid in viscera are low (north of Point Chehalis, Washington). Further delaying the opening of the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery until domoic acid in crab viscera is below federal action levels, which could take several months, would cause significant economic harm to the coastal crab industry and to the coastal communities dependent on this highly valuable fishery. In addition, delaying the season into spring poses an additional risk to marine mammals including Endangered Species Act listed humpback whales and Marine Mammal Protection Act Gray whales which are more abundant off the Washington coast in the spring by increasing the risk of entanglement with commercial crab gear. Emergency rules are necessary to implement a longer gear set period which will allow for safer fishing conditions and improved enforceability of area restrictions when gear is set. A delay due to elevated marine toxins aligns with the Tri-State Crab Agreement and similar rules in Oregon and California. Tribal special management area descriptions conform with recent state/tribal agreements. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules. The Westport Boat Basin is closed to commercial crab fishing to prevent conflicts with vessel traffic in a limited area. New hold inspections will provide flexibility and by allowing fishers to access different markets. This rule makes it clear that any new hold inspection

certificate issued will supersede any previous version issued to the same license or vessel to allow accurate tracking.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 2, Amended 0, Repealed 2.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 31, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-42000J Commercial crab fishery—Unlawful acts. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-420, effective immediately until further notice:

(1) It is unlawful to land, or purchase Dungeness crab taken from Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, Columbia River, or Washington coastal or adjacent waters of the Pacific Ocean from any vessel, unless:

(a) The vessel hold inspection certificate numbers are recorded on all shellfish fish receiving tickets completed for coastal Dungeness crab landings until further notice and;

(b) The vessel has a valid Oregon vessel inspection certificate or a Washington vessel inspection certificate dated on or after February 15, 2021 identified with an individual inspection number that includes the letters "EVS" indicating that evisceration is required for all crab sold by this license or the letters "NOR" indicating north of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) (except Grays Harbor) and evisceration is not required.

(c) A Washington vessel inspection certificate is only valid when signed by an authorized WDFW employee.

(d) A Washington vessel hold inspection certificate dated on or after March 18, 2021 supersedes any hold inspection certificate previously issued to the same license or associated designated vessel.

(2) It is unlawful to possess or deliver Dungeness crab unless the following conditions are met:

(a) All crab caught north of Point Arena, CA and south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) including Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor must be delivered to a processing facility with an approved Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan and eviscerated or;

(b) Dungeness crab are delivered to a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife licensed Fish Dealer and/or Wholesale Fish Buyer and transported or sold to a facility with an approved HACCP plan and eviscerated. The vessel

inspection number must accompany the crab to the final designation where it will be eviscerated.

(3) It is unlawful to donate, sell or attempt to sell to retailers or consumers live or whole Dungeness crab when caught north of Cape Falcon, OR (45°46'00" N. Lat) and south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat), and Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor.

(4) It is unlawful for a vessel to use more than 200 pots in the Makah SMA beginning immediately, until 8:00 A.M. April 17, 2021. Fishers must pre-register with the Department of Fish and Wildlife 24 hours prior to deploying gear in this area by one of the three following methods:

- Fax transmission to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1229;
- E-mail to Robert Morgan at Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1206.

(5) It is unlawful for a vessel to use more than 300 pots in the area between Split Rock (47°24.50) and Raft River (47°28.00) shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve from 8:00 a.m. April 3, 2021, until 8:00 a.m. May 1, 2021. Fishers must pre-register with the Department of Fish and Wildlife 24 hours prior to deploying gear in this area by one of the three following methods:

- Fax transmission to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1229;
- E-mail to Robert Morgan at Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1206.

(5) Unless otherwise amended all other provisions of the permanent rule remain in effect

Reviser's note: The unnecessary underscoring in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-45000Z Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Coastal. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-450, effective immediately until further notice: it is unlawful to fish for Dungeness crab in Washington coastal waters, the Pacific Ocean, Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, or the Columbia River, except as provided in this section:

(1) Open area: The area from the WA/OR border (46°15.00) to the US-Canadian border. For the purposes of this section, the waters of Willapa Bay include the marine waters east of a line connecting 46°44.76 N, 124°05.76 W and 46°38.93 N, 124°04.33 W.

(2) No license or vessel may set gear south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) and Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor unless they have been issued a valid Oregon vessel inspection certificate dated on or after February 15, 2021 or a Washington vessel inspection certificate dated on or after February 15, 2021 identified with a vessel inspection number that includes the letters "EVS" indicating that evisceration is

required for all crab landed by this license or vessel until further notice.

(3) Licenses or vessels issued a valid Washington crab vessel inspection certificate dated on or after February 15, 2021 identified with a vessel inspection number that includes the letters "NOR" may land crab for live, whole cooked or evisceration.

(4) It is unlawful for licenses and vessels with a vessel inspection number that includes the letters "NOR" to deploy or operate shellfish pots south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) and Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor.

(5) For waters of the Pacific Ocean north of Point Arena, California, it is unlawful for a person to use a vessel to fish in any area where the season opening is delayed due to marine biotoxins for the first 30 days following the opening of the area if the vessel was employed in the coastal crab fishery during the previous 45 days.

(6) The Quinalt Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA) is closed to fishing for Dungeness crab starting at 8:00 A.M., April 3, 2021, from the area shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Copalis River (47°08.00) and Split Rock (47°24.50). This area will be closed until further notice. This SSMA is described by the following coordinates:

(a) Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°20.00 W. Lon.

(b) Northwest Corner: 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°32.40 W. Lon.

(c) Southwest Corner: 47°08.00 N. Lat. 124°25.50 W. Lon.

(d) Southeast Corner (Copalis River): 47°08.00 N. Lat. 124°11.20 W. Lon.

(7) The Quileute special management area (SMA) is closed to fishing for Dungeness crab until further notice. The SMA includes the area shoreward of a line approximating the 30-fathom depth curve between Destruction Island and Cape Johnson according to the following points:

(a) Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47°58.00' N. Lat. 124°40.40' W. Lon.

(b) Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. 124°49.00' W. Lon.

(c) Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. 124°40.00' W. Lon.

(d) Southeast Corner (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. 124°24.43' W. Lon.

(8) Effective immediately the Makah special management area (SMA) is open to fishing. The SMA includes the waters between 48°02.15 N. Lat. and 48°19.50 N. Lat. east of a line connecting those points and approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

(a) Northeast Corner (Tatoosh Island)

(b) Northwest Corner: 48°19.50' N. Lat. 124°50.45' W. Lon.

(c) Southwest Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. 124°50.45' W. Lon.

(d) Southeast Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. 124°41.00' W. Lon.

(9) It is unlawful to fish for Dungeness crab in the Westport Boat Basin as defined in WAC 220-300-320.

(10) Unless otherwise amended all other provisions of the permanent rule remain in effect.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

WAC 220-340-45000I Commercial crab fishery—Unlawful acts. (21-36)

WAC 220-340-45000Y Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Coastal. (21-36)

WSR 21-08-036 EMERGENCY RULES DEPARTMENT OF

SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

(Aging and Long-Term Support Administration)

[Filed April 1, 2021, 8:13 a.m., effective April 2, 2021]

Effective Date of Rule: April 2, 2021.

Purpose: The department is extending the amendment of the rule listed below to assure certified community residential services and supports (CCRSS) service providers are not significantly impeded from providing services and support to clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-18 and subsequent extensions identified that the pandemic has resulted in disruptions of long-term care systems, including the ability to safely conduct inspections. The governor's proclamations included the suspension of licensing inspections for all long-term care settings with the exception of CCRSS settings. Current rule states the department may conduct an on-site certification evaluation for each service provider at any time, but at least once every two years. The amendment lengthens the amount of time to complete certification evaluations that are currently suspended for consistency and safety across all programs regulated by the department. The amendment will allow the department additional time to complete certification evaluations when it is safe and practical to do so. In addition, under the rule development phase of rule making, the department is in discussions with stakeholders about adding language to the rules to explain the circumstances and time periods under which suspension of rules due to COVID[-19] is necessary.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 388-101-3130.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 71A.12.030, 71A.12.080.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The threat of COVID-19 to our most vulnerable populations is significant, especially for those receiving long-term care services in their homes and congregate settings, such as CCRSS settings. Current CCRSS rules ensure the department may conduct on-site certification evaluations of each CCRSS service provider at any time, but at least every two years. Due to the suspension of certification evaluations, as proclaimed for all other long-term care settings related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the amendment will allow for additional time to complete the certification evaluations when the pandemic subsides.

The department filed a CR-101 Preproposal statement of inquiry as WSR 20-24-092 on November 25, 2020, to begin the permanent rule-making process and is continuing in the process of permanent rule making.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 25, 2021.

Katherine I. Vasquez
Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 08-02-022, filed 12/21/07, effective 2/1/08)

WAC 388-101-3130 Certification evaluation. (1) The department may conduct an on-site certification evaluation of each service provider at any time (~~(, but at least once every two years)~~).

(2) During certification evaluations the service provider's administrator or designee must:

(a) Cooperate with department representatives during the on-site visit;

(b) Provide all contractor records, client records, and other relevant information requested by the department representatives;

(c) Ensure the service provider's administrator or designee is available during any visit to respond to questions or issues identified by department representatives; and

(d) Ensure the service provider's administrator or designee is present at the exit conference.

WSR 21-08-037**EMERGENCY RULES****RENTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

[Filed April 1, 2021, 9:06 a.m., effective April 1, 2021]

Effective Date of Rule: April 1, 2021.

Purpose: The Department of Education (DOE) issued updated Title IX rules on May 22, 2020, which take effect August 14, 2020, forward. The updated rules incorporate new Title IX student conduct code requirements that necessitate Renton Technical College chapter 495E-110 WAC, amending WAC 495E-110-230 through 495E-110-310, and repealing WAC 495E-110-170 through 495E-110-200 of the student conduct code and hearing procedure, no later than August 14, 2020, to remain in compliance with the updated DOE requirements.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 495E-110-230, 495E-110-240, 495E-110-250, 495E-110-260, 495E-110-270, 495E-110-280, 495E-110-290, 495E-110-300 and 495E-110-310; and repealing WAC 495E-110-170, 495E-110-180, 495E-110-190, and 495E-110-200.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972; RCW 28B.50.140.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Emergency rules adding and repealing rules to chapter 495E-110 WAC, Student conduct code and hearing procedure, rules are necessary for compliance with the DOE updated Title IX rules issued on May 22, 2020, and requiring implementation of updated student conduct code requirements related to Title IX no later than August 14, 2020. The college intends to proceed with permanent rule making on these subjects in the near future.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 9, Amended 0, Repealed 4; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 1, 2021.

Eduardo Rodriguez
Vice President of
Administration and Finance

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-010 Authority. The board of trustees, acting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(14), delegates to the president of the college the authority to administer disciplinary action. Administration of the disciplinary procedures is the responsibility of the vice president of student affairs or their designee. The student conduct officer shall serve as the principal investigator and administrator for alleged violations of this code.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-020 Statement of student rights. As members of the academic community, students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in an independent search for truth. Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community. Students should exercise their freedom with responsibility. The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the college community.

The following enumerated rights are guaranteed to each student within the limitations of statutory law and college policy, which are deemed necessary to achieve the educational goals of the college:

(1) Academic freedom.

(a) Students are guaranteed the rights of free inquiry, expression, and assembly upon and within college facilities that are generally open and available to the public.

(b) Students are free to pursue appropriate educational objectives from among the college's curricula, programs, and services, subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.50.090 (3)(b).

(c) Students shall be protected from academic evaluation which is arbitrary, prejudiced, or capricious, but are responsible for meeting the standards of academic performance established by each of their instructors.

(d) Students have the right to a learning environment which is free from unlawful discrimination, inappropriate and disrespectful conduct, and any and all harassment, including sexual harassment.

(2) Due process.

(a) The rights of students to be secure in their persons, quarters, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures is guaranteed.

(b) No disciplinary sanction may be imposed on any student without notice to the accused of the nature of the charges.

(c) A student accused of violating this code of student conduct is entitled, upon request, to procedural due process as set forth in this chapter.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-030 Prohibited student conduct. The college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student who commits (or attempts to commit), or aids, abets, incites, encourages or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of misconduct, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) **Academic dishonesty.** Any act of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication.

(a) Cheating includes any attempt to give or obtain unauthorized assistance relating to the completion of an academic assignment.

(b) Plagiarism includes taking and using as one's own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, or work of another person in completing an academic assignment. Prohibited conduct may also include the unauthorized submission for credit of academic work that has been submitted for credit in another course.

(c) Fabrication includes falsifying data, information, or citations in completing an academic assignment and also includes providing false or deceptive information to an instructor concerning the completion of an assignment.

(d) Academic consequences for academic dishonesty or abetting in academic dishonesty may be imposed at the discretion of a faculty member up to and including a failing grade for the course. Students should refer to each faculty course syllabus. Further academic consequences may follow consistent with the provisions in any program handbook. Incidents of academic dishonesty may also be referred to the student conduct officer for disciplinary action consistent with this chapter in addition to the academic consequences identified above.

(2) **Other dishonesty.** Any other acts of dishonesty. Such acts include, but are not limited to:

(a) Forgery, alteration, submission of falsified documents, or misuse of any college document, record, or instrument of identification;

(b) Tampering with an election conducted by or for college students; or

(c) Furnishing false information or failing to furnish correct information, in response to the request or requirement of a college officer or employee.

(3) **Obstruction or ~~((disruption))~~ disruptive conduct.** ~~((Obstruction or disruption of))~~ Conduct, not otherwise protected by law, that interferes with, impedes, or otherwise unreasonably hinders:

(a) ~~((Any))~~ Instruction, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, or other college ~~((activity))~~ activities, including the obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular movement on college property or at a college activity; or

(b) Any activity that is authorized to occur on college property, whether or not actually conducted or sponsored by the college.

(4) **Assault, intimidation, harassment.** ~~((Assault, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threat(s), intimidation, harassment, bullying, stalking or other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of~~

~~another person or another person's property. For purposes of this subsection:~~

~~(a) Bullying is physical or verbal abuse, repeated over time, and involving a power imbalance between the aggressor and victim.~~

~~(b) Stalking is intentional and repeated following of another person, which places that person in reasonable fear that the perpetrator intends to injure, intimidate, or harass that person. Stalking also includes instances where the perpetrator knows or reasonably should know that the person is frightened, intimidated, or harassed, even if the perpetrator lacks such intent.)~~ Unwanted touching, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threat(s), intimidation, harassment, bullying, or other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person or another person's property. For purposes of this section, "bullying" is defined as repeated or aggressive unwanted behavior, not otherwise protected by law that intentionally humiliates, harms, or intimidates the victim.

(5) **Cyber misconduct.** Cyberstalking, cyberbullying or online harassment. Use of electronic communications including, but not limited to, electronic mail, instant messaging, electronic bulletin boards, and social media sites, to harass, abuse, bully, or engage in other conduct which harms, threatens, or is reasonably perceived as threatening the health or safety of another person. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, unauthorized monitoring of another's email communications directly or through spyware, sending threatening emails, disrupting electronic communications with spam or by sending a computer virus, sending false messages to third parties using another's email identity, nonconsensual recording of sexual activity, and nonconsensual distribution of a recording of sexual activity.

(6) **Property violation.** Damage to, ~~((or theft or misuse of, real or personal property or money of:~~

~~(a) The college or state; or~~

~~(b) Any student or college officer, employee, or organization; or~~

~~(c) Any other member of the college community or organization; or~~

~~(d) Possession of such property or money after it has been stolen))~~ misappropriation of, unauthorized use or possession of, vandalism, or other nonaccidental damaging or destruction of college property or the property of another person. Property for purposes of this subsection includes computer passwords, access codes, identification cards, personal financial account numbers, other confidential personal information, intellectual property, and college trademarks.

(7) **Failure to comply with directive.** Failure to comply with the ~~((direction))~~ directive of a college officer or employee who is acting in the legitimate performance of ~~((his or her))~~ their duties, including failure to properly identify oneself to such a person when requested to do so.

(8) **Weapons.** Possession, holding, wearing, transporting, storage or presence of any firearm, dagger, sword, knife or other cutting or stabbing instrument, club, explosive device, or any other weapon apparently capable of producing bodily harm is prohibited on the college campus, subject to the following exceptions:

(a) Commissioned law enforcement personnel or legally authorized military personnel while in performance of their duties;

(b) A student with a valid concealed weapons permit may store a pistol in ~~((his or her))~~ their vehicle parked on campus in accordance with RCW 9.41.050 (2) or (3), provided the vehicle is locked and the weapon is concealed from view; or

(c) The president may grant permission to bring a weapon on campus upon a determination that the weapon is reasonably related to a legitimate pedagogical purpose. Such permission shall be in writing and shall be subject to such terms or conditions incorporated in the written permission.

(d) This policy does not apply to the possession and/or use of disabling chemical sprays when possessed and/or used for self-defense.

(9) **Hazing.** Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any initiation into a student organization or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious mental or emotional harm, to any student.

(10) Alcohol, drug, and tobacco violations.

(a) **Alcohol.** The use, possession, delivery, or sale, or being observably under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, except as permitted by law and applicable college policies.

(b) **Marijuana.** The use, possession, delivery, or sale ~~((; or being observably under the influence))~~ of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana ~~((and))~~ intended for human consumption, regardless of form, or being observably under the influence of marijuana or the psychoactive compounds found in marijuana. While state law permits the recreational use of marijuana, federal law prohibits such use on college premises or in connection with college activities.

(c) **Drugs.** The use, possession, delivery, sale, or being observably under the influence of any legend drug including, anabolic steroids, androgens, or human growth hormones as defined in chapter 69.41 RCW, or any other controlled substance under chapter 69.50 RCW, except as prescribed for a student's use by a licensed practitioner.

(d) **Tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products.** The use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products in any building owned, leased, or operated by the college or in any location where such use is prohibited, including twenty-five feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes of any building owned, leased, or operated by the college. The use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products on the college campus is restricted to designated smoking areas. "Related products" include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, bidi, clove cigarettes, waterpipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, vaporizers, and snuff. There are designated smoking areas on campus.

(11) **Lewd conduct.** Conduct which is lewd or obscene that is not otherwise protected under the law.

(12) **Discriminatory conduct.** Discriminatory conduct which harms or adversely affects any member of the college community because of ~~((her/his person's))~~ their race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of

a service animal; gender, including pregnancy; marital status; age; religion; ((genetic information)) creed; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification.

(13) **Sexual misconduct.** The term "sexual misconduct" includes sexual harassment, sexual intimidation, and sexual violence. Sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX is defined in the supplemental procedures to this code. (Supplemental Title IX student conduct procedures.)

(a) **Sexual harassment.** The term "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual or gender-based conduct ~~((of a sexual nature))~~, including, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, quid pro quo harassment, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual or a gendered nature that is sufficiently ~~((serious))~~ severe, persistent, or pervasive as to:

(i) Deny or limit ~~((; and that does deny or limit, based on sex;))~~ the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program ~~((or that));~~

(ii) Alter the terms or conditions of employment for a college employee(s); and/or

(iii) Creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members.

(b) **Sexual intimidation.** The term "sexual intimidation" incorporates the definition of "sexual harassment" and means threatening or emotionally distressing conduct based on sex including, but not limited to, nonconsensual recording of sexual activity or the distribution of such recording.

(c) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" is a type of sexual discrimination and harassment. Nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are all types of sexual violence.

(i) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse ~~((is any)).~~ Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

(ii) Nonconsensual sexual contact ~~((is any intentional)).~~ Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(iii) ~~((Domestic violence includes asserted violent misdemeanor and felony offenses committed by the victim's current or former spouse, current or former cohabitant, person similarly situated under domestic or family violence law, or anyone else protected under domestic or family violence law.~~

(iv) Dating violence means violence by a person who has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim. Whether there was such relationship will be gauged by its length, type, and frequency of interaction.

~~((v) Stalking means intentional and repeated harassment or following of another person, which places that person in reasonable fear that the perpetrator intends to injure, intimidate, or harass that person. Stalking also includes instances~~

where the perpetrator knows or reasonably should know that the person is frightened, intimidated, or harassed, even if the perpetrator lacks such intent.

(vi) Consent: Knowing, voluntary and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. For consent to be valid, there must be at the time of the act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact.) Incest. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren, and adopted children under the age of eighteen.

(iv) Statutory rape. Consensual intercourse between a person who is eighteen years of age or older, and a person who is under the age of sixteen.

(v) Domestic violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.

(vi) Dating violence, physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person:

(A) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(B) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(I) The length of the relationship;

(II) The type of relationship; and

(III) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(vii) Stalking. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

(A) Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or

(B) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

(d) For purposes of this chapter, "consent" means knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. For consent to be valid, there must be at the time of the act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

A person cannot consent if he or she is unable to understand what is happening or is disoriented, helpless, asleep or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs. An individual who engages in sexual activity when the individual knows, or should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual conduct.

Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(14) **Harassment.** Unwelcome and offensive conduct, including verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, that is directed at a person because of such person's protected status and that is sufficiently serious as to deny or limit, and that does deny or limit, the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program, that changes the terms or conditions of employment for a college employee, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other campus community members. Protected status includes a person's race; color; national origin; sensory, mental or physical disability; use of a service animal; gender, including pregnancy; marital status; age; religion; ~~((genetic information))~~ creed; sexual orientation; gender identity; veteran's status; or any other legally protected classification. See "Sexual misconduct" for the definition of "sexual harassment." Harassing conduct may include, but is not limited to, physical conduct, verbal, written, social media and electronic communications.

(15) **Retaliation.** ~~((Retaliation against any individual for reporting, providing information, exercising one's rights or responsibilities, or otherwise being involved in the process of responding to, investigating, or addressing allegations or violations of federal, state or local law, or college policies including, but not limited to, student conduct code provisions prohibiting discrimination and harassment.))~~ Harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing, or taking adverse action of any kind against a person because such person reported an alleged violation of this code or college policy, provided information about an alleged violation, or participated as a witness or in any other capacity in a college investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

(16) **Misuse of electronic resources.** Theft or other misuse of computer time or other electronic information resources of the college. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Unauthorized use of such resources or opening of a file, message, or other item;

(b) Unauthorized duplication, transfer, or distribution of a computer program, file, message, or other item;

(c) Unauthorized use or distribution of someone else's password or other identification;

(d) Use of such time or resources to interfere with someone else's work;

(e) Use of such time or resources to send, display, or print an obscene or abusive message, text, or image;

(f) Use of such time or resources to interfere with normal operation of the college's computing system or other electronic information resources;

(g) Use of such time or resources in violation of applicable copyright or other law;

(h) Adding to or otherwise altering the infrastructure of the college's electronic information resources without authorization; or

(i) Failure to comply with the college's electronic use policy.

(17) **Unauthorized access.** Unauthorized possession, duplication, or other use of a key, keycard, or other restricted

means of access to college property, or unauthorized entry onto or into college property.

(18) **Safety violations.** ~~((Safety violation includes any))~~ Nonaccidental conduct that interferes with or otherwise compromises any college policy, equipment, or procedure relating to the safety and security of the campus community, including tampering with fire safety equipment and triggering false alarms or other emergency response systems.

(19) **Violation of other laws or policies.** Violation of any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation or other college rules or policies, including college traffic and parking rules.

(20) **Ethical violation.** The breach of any generally recognized and published code of ethics or standards of professional practice that governs the conduct of a particular profession for which the student is taking a course or is pursuing as an educational goal or major.

In addition to initiating discipline proceedings for violation of the student conduct code, the college may refer any violations of federal, state, or local laws to civil and criminal authorities for disposition. The college ~~((shall proceed with))~~ reserves the right to pursue student disciplinary proceedings regardless of whether the underlying conduct is subject to civil or criminal prosecution.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-040 Disciplinary sanctions and terms and conditions. (1) The following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon students found to have violated the student conduct code.

(a) **Disciplinary warning((+)).** A verbal statement to a student that there is a violation and that continued violation may be cause for further disciplinary action.

(b) **Written reprimand((+)).** Notice in writing that the student has violated one or more terms of this code of conduct and that continuation of the same or similar behavior may result in more severe disciplinary action.

(c) **Disciplinary probation((+)).** Formal action placing specific conditions and restrictions upon the student's continued attendance depending upon the seriousness of the violation and which may include a deferred disciplinary sanction. If the student subject to a deferred disciplinary sanction is found in violation of any college rule during the time of disciplinary probation, the deferred disciplinary sanction which may include, but is not limited to, a suspension or a dismissal from the college, shall take effect immediately without further review. Any such sanction shall be in addition to any sanction or conditions arising from the new violation. Probation may be for a limited period of time or may be for the duration of the student's attendance at the college.

(d) **Disciplinary suspension((+)).** Dismissal from the college and from the student status for a stated period of time. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the action is taken.

(e) **Dismissal((+)).** The revocation of all rights and privileges of membership in the college community and exclusion from the campus and college-owned or controlled facilities

without any possibility of return. There will be no refund of tuition or fees for the quarter in which the action is taken.

(2) Disciplinary terms and conditions that may be imposed in conjunction with the imposition of a disciplinary sanction include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) **Restitution((+)).** Reimbursement for damage to or misappropriation of property, or for injury to persons, or for reasonable costs incurred by the college in pursuing an investigation or disciplinary proceeding. This may take the form of monetary reimbursement, appropriate service, or other compensation.

(b) **Professional evaluation((+)).** Referral for drug, alcohol, psychological, or medical evaluation by an appropriately certified or licensed professional may be required. The student may choose the professional within the scope of practice and with the professional credentials as defined by the college. The student will sign all necessary releases to allow the college access to any such evaluation. The student's return to college may be conditioned upon compliance with recommendations set forth in such a professional evaluation. If the evaluation indicates that the student is not capable of functioning within the college community, the student will remain suspended until future evaluation recommends that the student is capable of reentering the college and complying with the rules of conduct.

(c) **Not in good standing((+)).** A student may be deemed "not in good standing" with the college. If so the student shall be subject to the following restrictions:

(i) Ineligible to hold an office in any student organization recognized by the college or to hold any elected or appointed office of the college;

(ii) Ineligible to represent the college to anyone outside the college community in any way, including representing the college at any official function, or any forms of intercollegiate competition or representation.

(d) **No contact order((+)).** ~~((A student may be directed to have no physical, verbal, and/or written contact with another individual.))~~ An order directing a student to have no contact with a specified student, college employee, a member of the college community, or a particular college facility.

STUDENT HEARING PROCEDURES

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-050 Statement of jurisdiction. (1) The student conduct code shall apply to student conduct that occurs:

(a) On college premises~~((to conduct that occurs));~~

(b) At or in connection with college-sponsored activities~~((;))~~; or

(c) To off-campus conduct that in the judgment of the college adversely affects the college community or the pursuit of its objectives.

(2) Jurisdiction extends to, but is not limited to, locations in which students are engaged in official college activities including, but not limited to, foreign or domestic travel, activities funded by the associated students, athletic events, training internships, cooperative and distance education,

online education, practicums, supervised work experiences or any other college-sanctioned social or club activities.

(3) Students are responsible for their conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual receipt of a degree, even though conduct may occur before classes begin or after classes end, as well as during the academic year and during periods between terms of actual enrollment.

(4) These standards shall apply to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws from college while a disciplinary matter is pending. The college has sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to determine whether the student conduct code will be applied to conduct that occurs (~~off campus~~) off campus.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-060 Definitions. The following definitions shall apply for purpose of this student conduct code:

(1) "Business day" means a weekday, excluding weekends and college holidays.

(2) "College premises" shall include~~(s)~~ all campuses of the college, wherever located, and includes all land, buildings, facilities, vehicles, equipment, and other property owned, used, or controlled by the college.

(3) A "complainant" is an alleged victim of sexual misconduct.

(4) "Conduct review officer" is the vice president of student services or other college administrator designated by the president to be responsible for receiving and for reviewing or referring appeals of student disciplinary actions in accordance with the procedures of this code. ~~((The president is authorized to reassign any and all of the conduct review officer's duties or responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary.~~

~~((4))~~ (5) "Disciplinary action" is the process by which the student conduct officer imposes discipline against a student for a violation of the student conduct code.

~~((5))~~ (6) "Disciplinary appeal" is the process by which an aggrieved student can appeal the discipline imposed by the student conduct officer. Disciplinary appeals from a suspension in excess of ten instructional days or an expulsion are heard by the student conduct appeals board. Appeals of all other appealable disciplinary action shall be reviewed through brief adjudicative proceedings.

~~((6))~~ (7) "Filing" is the process by which a document is officially delivered to a college official responsible for facilitating a disciplinary review. Unless otherwise provided, filing shall be accomplished by:

(a) Hand delivery of the document to the specified college official or college official's assistant; or

(b) By sending the document by email and first class mail to the specified college official's office and college email address.

Papers required to be filed shall be deemed filed upon actual receipt during office hours at the office of the specified college official.

~~((7))~~ (8) "Respondent" is the student against whom disciplinary action is initiated.

~~((8))~~ (9) "Service" is the process by which a document is officially delivered to a party. Unless otherwise provided, service upon a party shall be accomplished by:

(a) Hand delivery of the document to the party; or

(b) Sending the document by email and by certified mail or first class mail to the party's last known address.

Service is deemed complete upon hand delivery of the document or upon the date the document is emailed and deposited in the mail.

~~((9))~~ (10) "Sexual misconduct" has the meaning ascribed to this term in WAC 495E-110-030(13).

(11) "Student" includes all persons taking courses at or through the college, whether on a full-time or part-time basis, and whether such courses are credit courses, noncredit courses, online courses, or otherwise. Persons who withdraw after allegedly violating the code, who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the college, or who have been notified of their acceptance for admission are considered "students(-)" for purposes of this chapter.

~~((10))~~ (12) "Student conduct officer" is a college administrator designated by the president or vice president of student services to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the student conduct code. ~~((The president or vice president of student services is authorized to reassign any and all of the student conduct officer's duties or responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary.~~

~~((11))~~ (13) "The president" is the president of the college. The president is authorized to:

(a) Delegate any ~~((and all of his or her))~~ of their responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary; and

(b) Reassign any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter as may be reasonably necessary.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-070 Initiation of disciplinary actions. (1) All disciplinary actions will be initiated by the student conduct officer. If that officer is the subject of a complaint initiated by the respondent, the president shall, upon request and when feasible, designate another person to fulfill any such disciplinary responsibilities relative to the complainant.

(2) The student conduct officer shall initiate disciplinary action by serving the respondent with written notice directing ~~((him or her))~~ them to attend a disciplinary meeting. The notice shall briefly describe the factual allegations, the provision(s) of the conduct code the respondent is alleged to have violated, the range of possible sanctions for the alleged violation(s), and specify the time and location of the meeting. At the meeting, the student conduct officer will present the allegations to the respondent and the respondent shall be afforded an opportunity to explain what took place. If the respondent fails to attend the meeting, the student conduct officer may take disciplinary action based upon the available information.

(3) The student conduct officer, prior to taking disciplinary action in a case involving allegations of sexual mis-

conduct, will make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to discuss the results of the investigation and possible disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions, if any, that may be imposed upon the respondent if the allegations of sexual misconduct are found to have merit.

(4) Within ten days of the initial disciplinary meeting, and after considering the evidence in the case, including any facts or argument presented by the respondent, the student conduct officer shall serve the respondent with a written decision setting forth the facts and conclusions supporting his or her decision, the specific student conduct code provisions found to have been violated, the discipline imposed, if any, and a notice of any appeal rights with an explanation of the consequences of failing to file a timely appeal.

~~((4))~~ (5) The student conduct officer may take any of the following disciplinary actions:

(a) Exonerate the respondent and terminate the proceedings.

(b) Impose a disciplinary sanction(s), as described in WAC 495E-110-040.

(c) Refer the matter directly to the student conduct committee for such disciplinary action as the committee deems appropriate. Such referral shall be in writing, to the attention of the chair of the student conduct committee, with a copy served on the respondent.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the student conduct officer, on the same date that a disciplinary decision is served on the respondent, will serve a written notice informing the complainant whether the allegations of sexual misconduct were found to have merit and describing any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection, including disciplinary suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights. If protective sanctions and/or conditions are imposed, the student conduct officer shall make a reasonable effort to contact the complainant to ensure prompt notice of the protective disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-080 Appeal from disciplinary action. (1) The respondent may appeal a disciplinary action by filing a written notice of appeal with the conduct review officer within ~~((twenty-one))~~ ten days of service of the student conduct officer's decision. Failure to timely file a notice of appeal constitutes a waiver of the right to appeal and the student conduct officer's decision shall be deemed final.

(2) The notice of appeal must include a brief statement explaining why the respondent is seeking review.

(3) The parties to an appeal shall be the respondent and the conduct review officer.

(4) A respondent, who timely appeals a disciplinary action or whose case is referred to the student conduct committee, has a right to a prompt, fair, and impartial hearing as provided for in these procedures.

(5) On appeal, the college bears the burden of establishing the evidentiary facts underlying the imposition of a disciplinary sanction by a preponderance of the evidence.

(6) Imposition of disciplinary action for violation of the student conduct code shall be stayed pending appeal, unless respondent has been summarily suspended.

(7) The student conduct committee shall hear appeals from:

(a) The imposition of disciplinary suspensions in excess of ten instructional days;

(b) Dismissals; and

(c) Discipline cases referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, the conduct review officer, or the president.

(8) Student conduct appeals from the imposition of the following disciplinary sanctions shall be reviewed through a brief adjudicative proceeding:

(a) Suspensions of ten instructional days or less;

(b) Disciplinary probation;

(c) Written reprimands; and

(d) Any conditions or terms imposed in conjunction with one of the foregoing disciplinary actions.

(9) Except as provided elsewhere in these rules, disciplinary warnings and dismissals of disciplinary actions are final action and are not subject to appeal.

(10) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the complainant has the right to appeal the following actions by the student conduct officer following the same procedures as set forth above for the respondent:

(a) The dismissal of a sexual misconduct complaint; or

(b) Any disciplinary sanction(s) and conditions imposed against a respondent for a sexual misconduct violation, including a disciplinary warning.

(11) If the respondent timely appeals a decision imposing discipline for a sexual misconduct violation, the college shall notify the complainant of the appeal and provide the complainant an opportunity to intervene as a party to the appeal.

(12) Except as otherwise specified in this chapter, a complainant who timely appeals a disciplinary decision or who intervenes as a party to the respondent's appeal of a disciplinary decision shall be afforded the same procedural rights as are afforded the respondent.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-090 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Initial hearing. (1) Brief adjudicative proceedings shall be conducted by a conduct review officer. The conduct review officer shall not participate in any case in which he or she is a complainant or witness, or in which they have direct or personal interest, prejudice, or bias, or in which they have acted previously in an advisory capacity.

(2) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent, the student conduct officer, and in cases involving sexual misconduct, the complainant. Before taking action, the conduct review officer shall conduct an informal hearing and provide each party:

(a) An opportunity to be informed of the agency's view of the matter; and

(b) An opportunity to explain the party's view of the matter.

(3) The conduct review officer shall serve an initial decision upon ~~((both the parties))~~ the respondent and the student conduct officer within ten days of consideration of the appeal. The initial decision shall contain a brief written statement of the reasons for the decision and information about how to seek administrative review of the initial decision. If no request for review is filed within ~~((twenty-one))~~ ten days of service of the initial decision, the initial decision shall be deemed the final decision.

(4) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the conduct review officer, on the same date as the initial decision is served on the respondent, will serve a written notice upon the complainant informing the complainant whether the allegations of sexual misconduct were found to have merit and describing any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights.

(5) If the conduct review officer upon review determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a disciplinary suspension of more than ten instructional days or expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-100 Brief adjudicative proceedings—Review of an initial decision. (1) An initial decision is subject to review by the president, provided the respondent files a written request for review with the conduct review officer within ~~((twenty-one))~~ ten days of service of the initial decision.

(2) The president shall not participate in any case in which ~~((he or she is))~~ they are a complainant or witness, or in which they have direct or personal interest, prejudice, or bias, or in which they have acted previously in an advisory capacity.

(3) During the review, the president shall give each party an opportunity to file written responses explaining their view of the matter and shall make any inquiries necessary to ascertain whether the sanctions should be modified or whether the proceedings should be referred to the student conduct committee for a formal adjudicative hearing.

(4) The decision on review must be in writing and must include a brief statement of the reasons for the decision and must be served on the parties within twenty days of the initial decision or of the request for review, whichever is later. The decision on review will contain a notice that judicial review may be available. A request for review may be deemed to have been denied if the president does not make a disposition of the matter within twenty days after the request is submitted.

(5) If the president upon review determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a disciplinary suspension of more than ten instructional days or expulsion, the matter shall be referred to the student conduct committee for a disciplinary hearing.

(6) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the president, on the same date as the final decision is served

on the respondent, will serve a written notice upon the complainant informing the complainant whether the allegations of sexual misconduct were found to have merit and describing any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection, including suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-110 Student conduct committee. (1)

The student conduct committee shall consist of five members:

- (a) Two full-time students appointed by the student government;
- (b) Two faculty members appointed by the president; and
- (c) One faculty member or administrator (other than an administrator serving as a student conduct or conduct review officer) appointed by the president at the beginning of the academic year.

(2) The faculty member or administrator, appointed on a yearly basis, shall serve as the chair of the committee and may take action on preliminary hearing matters prior to convening the committee. The chair shall receive annual training on protecting victims and promoting accountability in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct.

(3) Hearings may be heard by a quorum of three members of the committee so long as one faculty member and one student are included on the hearing panel. Committee action may be taken upon a majority vote of all committee members attending the hearing.

(4) Members of the student conduct committee shall not participate in any case in which they are a party, complainant, or witness, in which they have direct or personal interest, prejudice, or bias, or in which they have acted previously in an advisory capacity. Any party may petition for disqualification of a committee member ~~((pursuant to RCW 34.05.425 (4)))~~.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-120 Appeal—Student conduct committee. (1) Proceedings of the student conduct committee shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW ~~((, and by the Model Rules of Procedure, chapter 10-08 WAC. To the extent there is a conflict between these rules and chapter 10-08 WAC, these rules shall control))~~.

(2) The student conduct committee chair shall serve all parties with written notice of the hearing not less than seven days in advance of the hearing date ~~((, as further specified in RCW 34.05.434 and WAC 10-08-040 and 10-08-045))~~. The chair may shorten this notice period if both parties agree, and also may continue the hearing to a later time for good cause shown.

(3) The committee chair is authorized to conduct prehearing conferences and/or to make prehearing decisions

concerning the extent and form of any discovery, issuance of protective decisions, and similar procedural matters.

(4) Upon request filed at least five days before the hearing by any party or at the direction of the committee chair, the parties shall exchange, no later than the third day prior to the hearing, lists of potential witnesses and copies of potential exhibits that they reasonably expect to present to the committee. Failure to participate in good faith in such a requested exchange may be cause for exclusion from the hearing of any witness or exhibit not disclosed, absent a showing of good cause for such failure.

(5) The committee chair may provide to the committee members in advance of the hearing copies of (a) the conduct officer's notification of imposition of discipline (or referral to the committee), and (b) the notice of appeal (or any response to referral) by the respondent. If doing so, however, the chair should remind the members that these "pleadings" are not evidence of any facts they may allege.

(6) The parties may agree before the hearing to designate specific exhibits as admissible without objection and, if they do so, whether the committee chair may provide copies of these admissible exhibits to the committee members before the hearing.

(7) The student conduct officer, upon request, shall provide reasonable assistance to the respondent in obtaining relevant and admissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(8) Communications between committee members and other hearing participants regarding any issue in the proceeding, other than procedural communications that are necessary to maintain an orderly process, are generally prohibited without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate, and any improper "ex parte" communication shall be placed on the record, as further provided in RCW 34.05.455.

(9) In cases heard by the committee, each party may be accompanied at the hearing by a nonattorney assistant of ((his/her)) their choice. ((A)) The respondent, in all appeals before the committee, or a complainant in an appeal involving allegations of sexual misconduct before the committee, may elect to be represented by an attorney at ((his or her)) their own cost, but will be deemed to have waived that right unless, at least four business days before the hearing, written notice of the attorney's identity and participation is filed with the committee chair with a copy to the student conduct officer. The committee will ordinarily be advised by an assistant attorney general. If the respondent is represented by an attorney, the student conduct officer may also be represented by a second, appropriately screened assistant attorney general.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-130 Student conduct committee hearings—Presentations of evidence. (1) Upon the failure of any party to attend or participate in a hearing, the student conduct committee may either:

(a) Proceed with the hearing and issuance of its decision; or

(b) Serve a decision of default in accordance with RCW 34.05.440.

(2) The hearing will ordinarily be closed to the public. However, if all parties agree on the record that some or all of the proceedings be open, the chair shall determine any extent to which the hearing will be open. If any person disrupts the proceedings, the chair may exclude that person from the hearing room.

(3) The chair shall cause the hearing to be recorded by a method that he/she select((s)), in accordance with RCW 34.05.449. That recording, or a copy, shall be made available to any party upon request. The chair shall assure maintenance of the record of the proceeding that is required by RCW 34.05.476, which shall also be available upon request for inspection and copying by any party. Other recording shall also be permitted, in accordance with WAC 10-08-190.

(4) The chair shall preside at the hearing and decide procedural questions that arise during the hearing, except as overridden by majority vote of the committee.

(5) The student conduct officer (unless represented by an assistant attorney general) shall present the case for imposing disciplinary sanctions.

(6) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. Evidence shall be admitted or excluded in accordance with RCW 34.05.452.

(7) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, no party shall directly question or cross examine one another. Attorneys for the parties are also prohibited from questioning the opposing party absent express permission from the committee chair. Subject to this exception, all cross-examination questions shall be directed to the committee chair, who in their discretion shall pose the questions on the party's behalf.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-140 Student conduct committee—Initial decision. (1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the student conduct committee shall permit the parties to make closing arguments in whatever form it wishes to receive them. The committee also may permit each party to propose findings, conclusions, and/or a proposed decision for its consideration.

(2) Within twenty days following the later of the conclusion of the hearing or the committee's receipt of closing arguments, the committee shall issue an initial decision in accordance with RCW 34.05.461 and WAC 10-08-210. The initial decision shall include findings on all material issues of fact and conclusions on all material issues of law, including which, if any, provisions of the student conduct code were violated. Any findings based substantially on the credibility of evidence or the demeanor of witnesses shall be so identified.

(3) The committee's initial order shall also include a determination on appropriate discipline, if any. If the matter was referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, the committee shall identify and impose disciplinary sanction(s) or conditions (if any) as authorized in the student code. If the matter is an appeal by the respondent, the committee may affirm, reverse, or modify the disciplinary sanction and/or conditions imposed by the student conduct officer.

and/or impose additional disciplinary sanction(s) or conditions as authorized herein.

(4) The committee chair shall cause copies of the initial decision to be served on the parties and their legal counsel of record. The committee chair shall also promptly transmit a copy of the decision and the record of the committee's proceedings to the president.

(5) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the chair of the student conduct committee, on the same date as the initial decision is served on the respondent, will serve a written notice upon the complainant informing the complainant whether the allegations of sexual misconduct were found to have merit and describing any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection, including suspension or dismissal of the respondent. The complainant may appeal the student conduct committee's initial decision to the president subject to the same procedures and deadlines applicable to other parties. The notice will also inform the complainant of their appeal rights.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-150 Appeal from student conduct committee initial decision. (1) A ~~((respondent))~~ party who is aggrieved by the findings or conclusions issued by the student conduct committee may appeal the committee's initial decision to the president by filing a notice of appeal with the president's office or designee within ~~((twenty-one))~~ ten days of service of the committee's initial decision. Failure to file a timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right and the initial decision shall be deemed final.

(2) The notice of appeal must identify the specific findings of fact and/or conclusions of law in the initial decision that are challenged and must contain argument why the appeal should be granted. If necessary to aid review, the president may ask for additional briefing from the parties on issues raised on appeal. The president's review shall be restricted to the hearing record made before the student conduct committee and will normally be limited to a review of those issues and arguments raised in the notice of appeal.

(3) The president shall provide a written decision to ~~((all parties))~~ the party and the student conduct officer within ~~((forty-five))~~ twenty days after receipt of the notice of appeal. The president's decision shall be final and shall include a notice of any rights to request reconsideration and/or judicial review.

(4) In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the president, on the same date that the final decision is served upon the respondent, shall serve a written notice informing the complainant of the final decision. This notice shall inform the complainant whether the sexual misconduct allegation was found to have merit and describe any disciplinary sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent for the complainant's protection, including suspension or dismissal of the respondent.

(5) The president shall not engage in an ex parte communication with any of the parties regarding an appeal.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-11-013, filed 5/8/15, effective 6/8/15)

WAC 495E-110-160 Summary suspension. (1) Summary suspension is a temporary exclusion from specified college premises or denial of access to all activities or privileges for which a respondent might otherwise be eligible, while an investigation and/or formal disciplinary procedures are pending.

(2) The student conduct officer may impose a summary suspension if there is probable cause to believe that the respondent:

(a) Has violated any provision of the code of conduct; and

(b) Presents an immediate danger to the health, safety or welfare of members of the college community; or

(c) Poses an ongoing threat of substantial disruption of, or interference with, the operations of the college.

(3) Notice. Any respondent who has been summarily suspended shall be served with oral or written notice of the summary suspension. If oral notice is given, a written notification shall be served on the respondent within two business days of the oral notice.

(4) The written notification shall be entitled "Notice of summary suspension" and shall include:

(a) The reasons for imposing the summary suspension, including a description of the conduct giving rise to the summary suspension and reference to the provisions of the student conduct code or the law allegedly violated;

(b) The date, time, and location when the respondent must appear before the conduct review officer for a hearing on the summary suspension; and

(c) The conditions, if any, under which the respondent may physically access the campus or communicate with members of the campus community. If the respondent has been trespassed from the campus, a notice against trespass shall be included ~~((that warns the student that his or her))~~ warning the respondent that their privilege to enter into or remain on college premises has been withdrawn, and that the respondent shall be considered trespassing and subject to arrest for criminal trespass if ((the respondent)) they enter((s)) the college campus other than to meet with the student conduct officer or conduct review officer, or to attend a disciplinary hearing.

(5) The conduct review officer shall conduct a hearing on the summary suspension as soon as practicable after imposition of the summary suspension.

(a) The conduct review officer shall conduct a hearing on the summary suspension as soon as practicable after imposition of the summary suspension.

(b) During the summary suspension hearing, the issue before the conduct review officer is whether there is probable cause to believe that the summary suspension should be continued pending the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings and/or whether the summary suspension should be less restrictive in scope.

(c) The respondent shall be afforded an opportunity to explain why summary suspension should not be continued while disciplinary proceedings are pending or why the summary suspension should be less restrictive in scope.

(d) If the respondent fails to appear at the designated hearing time, the conduct review officer may order that the summary suspension remain in place pending the conclusion of the disciplinary proceedings.

(e) As soon as practicable following the hearing, the conduct review officer shall issue a written decision which shall include a brief explanation for any decision continuing and/or modifying the summary suspension and notice of any right to appeal.

(f) To the extent permissible under applicable law, the conduct review officer shall provide a copy of the decision to all persons or officers who may be bound or protected by it.

~~(6) ((During the summary suspension hearing, the issue before the conduct review officer is whether there is probable cause to believe that the summary suspension should be continued pending the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings and/or whether the summary suspension should be less restrictive in scope.~~

~~(7) The respondent shall be afforded an opportunity to explain why summary suspension should not be continued while disciplinary proceedings are pending or why the summary suspension should be less restrictive in scope.~~

~~(8) If the student fails to appear at the designated hearing time, the conduct review officer may order that the summary suspension remain in place pending the conclusion of the disciplinary proceedings.~~

~~(9) As soon as practicable following the hearing, the conduct review officer shall issue a written decision which shall include a brief explanation for any decision continuing and/or modifying the summary suspension and notice of any right to appeal.~~

~~(10) To the extent permissible under applicable law, the conduct review officer shall provide a copy of the decision to all persons or officers who may be bound or protected by it.)~~
In cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, the complainant shall be notified that a summary suspension has been imposed on the same day that the summary suspension notice is served on the respondent. The college will also provide the complainant with timely notice of any subsequent changes to the summary suspension order.

~~**((DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES FOR CASES INVOLVING ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT))**~~
SUPPLEMENTAL TITLE IX STUDENT CONDUCT PROCEDURES

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-225 Sexual misconduct proceedings.

Both the respondent and the complainant in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct shall be provided the same procedural rights to participate in student discipline matters, including the right to participate in the initial disciplinary decision-making process and to appeal any disciplinary decision.

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-230 Order of precedence. This supplemental procedure applies to allegations of sexual harass-

ment subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Sec. 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with the college's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 495E-110-010 through 495E-110-220, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence.

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-240 Prohibited conduct under Title IX. Pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(13) and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, the college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of "sexual harassment."

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, "sexual harassment" encompasses the following conduct:

(1) Quid pro quo harassment. A college employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of college on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(2) Hostile environment. Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the college's educational programs or activities, or employment.

(3) Sexual assault. Sexual assault includes the following conduct:

(a) Nonconsensual sexual intercourse. Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

(b) Nonconsensual sexual contact. Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(c) Incest. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of eighteen.

(d) Statutory rape. Consensual sexual intercourse between someone who is eighteen years of age or older and someone who is under the age of sixteen.

(4) Domestic violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or

family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.

(5) Dating violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person:

(a) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(b) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship;

(ii) The type of relationship; and

(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(6) Stalking. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-250 Title IX jurisdiction. (1) This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct:

(a) Occurred in the United States;

(b) Occurred during a college educational program or activity; and

(c) Meets the definition of sexual harassment as that term is defined in this supplemental procedure.

(2) For purposes of this supplemental procedure, an "educational program or activity" is defined as locations, events, or circumstances over which the college exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurred. This definition includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the college.

(3) Proceedings under this supplemental procedure must be dismissed if the decision maker determines that one or all of the requirements of subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section have not been met. Dismissal under this supplemental procedure does not prohibit the college from pursuing other disciplinary action based on allegations that the respondent violated other provisions of the college's student conduct code, WAC 495E-110-030.

(4) If the student conduct officer determines the facts in the investigation report are not sufficient to support Title IX jurisdiction and/or pursuit of a Title IX violation, the student conduct officer will issue a notice of dismissal in whole or part to both parties explaining why some or all of the Title IX claims have been dismissed.

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-260 Initiation of discipline. (1) Upon receiving the Title IX investigation report from the Title IX coordinator, the student conduct officer will independently review the report to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to pursue a disciplinary action against the respondent for engaging in prohibited conduct under Title IX.

(2) If the student conduct officer determines that there are sufficient grounds to proceed under these supplemental procedures, the student conduct officer will initiate a Title IX

disciplinary proceeding by filing a written disciplinary notice with the chair of the student conduct committee and serving the notice on the respondent and the complainant, and their respective advisors. The notice must:

(a) Set forth the basis for Title IX jurisdiction;

(b) Identify the alleged Title IX violation(s);

(c) Set forth the facts underlying the allegation(s);

(d) Identify the range of possible sanctions that may be imposed if the respondent is found responsible for the alleged violation(s); and

(e) Explain that the parties are entitled to be accompanied by their chosen advisors during the hearing and that:

(i) The advisors will be responsible for questioning all witnesses on the party's behalf;

(ii) An advisor may be an attorney; and

(iii) The college will appoint the party an advisor of the college's choosing at no cost to the party, if the party fails to do so.

(3) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-270 Prehearing procedure. (1) Upon receiving the disciplinary notice, the chair of the student conduct committee will send a hearing notice to all parties, in compliance with WAC 495E-110-120. In no event will the hearing date be set less than ten days after the Title IX coordinator provided the final investigation report to the parties.

(2) A party may choose to have an attorney serve as their advisor at the party's own expense. This right will be waived unless, at least five days before the hearing, the attorney files a notice of appearance with the committee chair with copies to all parties and the student conduct officer.

(3) In preparation for the hearing, the parties will have equal access to all evidence gathered by the investigator during the investigation, regardless of whether the college intends to offer the evidence at the hearing.

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-280 Rights of parties. (1) The college's student conduct procedures and this supplemental procedure shall apply equally to all parties.

(2) The college bears the burden of offering and presenting sufficient testimony and evidence to establish that the respondent is responsible for a Title IX violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(3) The respondent will be presumed not responsible until such time as the disciplinary process has been finally resolved.

(4) During the hearing, each party shall be represented by an advisor. The parties are entitled to an advisor of their own choosing and the advisor may be an attorney. If a party does not choose an advisor, then the Title IX coordinator will appoint an advisor of the college's choosing on the party's behalf at no expense to the party.

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-290 Evidence. The introduction and consideration of evidence during the hearing is subject to the following procedures and restrictions:

(1) **Relevance:** The committee chair shall review all questions for relevance and shall explain on the record their reasons for excluding any question based on lack of relevance.

(2) Relevance means that information elicited by the question makes facts in dispute more or less likely to be true.

(3) Questions or evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant and must be excluded, unless such question or evidence:

(a) Is asked or offered to prove someone other than the respondent committed the alleged misconduct; or

(b) Concerns specific incidents of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.

(4) **Cross-examination required:** If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination during the live hearing, the committee must not rely on any statement by that party or witness in reaching a determination of responsibility.

(5) **No negative inference:** The committee may not make an inference regarding responsibility solely on a witness's or party's absence from the hearing or refusal to answer questions.

(6) **Privileged evidence:** The committee shall not consider legally privileged information unless the holder has effectively waived the privilege. Privileged information includes, but is not limited to, information protected by the following:

(a) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(b) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;

(c) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;

(d) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;

(e) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and

(f) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-300 Initial order. In addition to complying with WAC 495E-110-140, the student conduct committee will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:

(1) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;

(2) Describes the grievance and disciplinary procedures, starting with filing of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility, including notices to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;

(3) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination of responsibility;

(4) Reaches conclusions as to whether the facts establish whether the respondent is responsible for engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX;

(5) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the committee's determination of responsibility for each allegation;

(6) Describes any disciplinary sanction or conditions imposed against the respondent, if any;

(7) Describes to what extent, if any, complainant is entitled to remedies designed to restore or preserve complainant's equal access to the college's educational programs or activities;

(8) Describes the process for appealing the initial order to the college president; and

(9) The committee chair will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.

NEW SECTION

WAC 495E-110-310 Appeals. (1) The parties shall have the right to appeal from the initial order's determination of responsibility and/or dismissal of an allegation(s) of sexual harassment in a formal complaint. The right to appeal will be subject to the same procedures and time frames set forth in WAC 495E-110-150.

(2) The president or their delegate will determine whether the grounds for appeal have merit, provide the rationale for this conclusion, and state whether the disciplinary sanction and condition(s) imposed in the initial order are affirmed, vacated, or amended, and, if amended, set forth any new disciplinary sanction and/or condition(s).

(3) President's office shall serve the final decision on the parties simultaneously.

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

WAC 495E-110-170 Supplemental sexual misconduct procedures.

WAC 495E-110-180 Supplemental definitions.

WAC 495E-110-190 Supplemental complaint process.

WAC 495E-110-200 Supplemental appeal rights.

WSR 21-08-040**EMERGENCY RULES****THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE**

[Filed April 1, 2021, 11:16 a.m., effective April 1, 2021, 11:16 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: Update our student rules to be in compliance with new Title IX federal regulations from the Department of Education. The new federal regulations went into effect on August 14, 2020. Evergreen submitted for emergency rule making at that time, and the one hundred twenty day period is set to expire. Evergreen submitted the same updates for a second emergency rule making, to be effective starting December 9, 2020, to bridge the gap as Evergreen continues to work on the permanent rule-making process. The second emergency rule is set to expire on April 9, 2021. This third submission of the emergency rule is to fill the final gap. As Evergreen works to finalize their permanent rule making, the

timeline is for the permanent rules to take effect on or around April 26, 2021.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New 9; and amending 11.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.40.120 (12).

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Federal Title IX regulations required this be implemented by August 14, 2020. As Evergreen works towards permanent rule making, additional time will be needed to implement the rules permanently.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 9, Amended 11, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: March 24, 2021.

Daniel Ralph
Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-17-102, filed 8/15/18, effective 9/15/18)

WAC 174-123-170 Prohibited conduct. The code of student rights and responsibilities recognizes two types of prohibited conduct: Conduct related to community, and conduct related to persons. The subsections below outline the basic structures of community that the code seeks to uphold, and the basic rights and expectations of students that the code seeks to support. Conduct prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, and associated procedures are set out in WAC 174-123-355 to 174-123-440 (supplemental Title IX student conduct procedures).

(1) Conduct related to community.

The Evergreen State College community is a vibrant and engaged collective of individuals who have committed to the mission of the college. The college's mission statement reads as follows: "As an innovative public liberal arts college, Evergreen emphasizes collaborative, interdisciplinary learning across significant differences. Our academic community engages students in defining and thinking critically about their learning. Evergreen supports and benefits from local and global commitments to social justice, diversity, environmental stewardship and service in the public interest." Students are encouraged to continue to grow individually

while contributing to and shaping the Evergreen community as each person brings new ideas, new perspectives, and renewed focus that is invaluable at a liberal arts college.

Students in the college community are expected to practice academic integrity: To author their own ideas and critique and evaluate others' ideas in their own voices. The greater learning community of the college can thrive only if each person works with a genuine commitment to make their own authentic intellectual discoveries. To that end it is a community expectation that students and recognized organizations will not engage in the following prohibited conduct, which constitute violations of this code:

(a) **Academic dishonesty** which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(i) Cheating includes any attempt to give or obtain unauthorized assistance relating to the completion of an academic assignment;

(ii) Plagiarism includes taking and using as one's own without proper attribution the ideas, writings, or work of another person in completing an academic assignment. Plagiarism may also include the unauthorized submission of academic work for credit that has been submitted for credit in another course;

(iii) Fabrication includes falsifying data, information, or citations in completing an academic assignment and also includes providing false or deceptive information to an instructor concerning the completion of an assignment;

(iv) Using assistance or materials that are expressly forbidden to complete an academic product or assignment;

(v) The unauthorized collaboration with any other person during the completion of independent academic work;

(vi) Knowingly falsifying or assisting in falsifying in whole, or in part, the contents of one's academic work;

(vii) Permitting any other person to substitute oneself to complete academic work; or

(viii) Engaging in any academic behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course covenant, syllabus, or individual or class discussion.

(b) **Damaging, defacing, destroying, or tampering** with college property or other personal or public property. This includes, but is not limited to, graffiti and vandalism.

(c) **Disorderly conduct** which includes any individual or group behavior which is abusive, obscene, violent, excessively noisy, or which unreasonably disturbs institutional functions, operations, classrooms, other groups or individuals. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, those which obstruct or interfere with institutional activities, programs, events, or facilities, such as:

(i) Any unauthorized occupancy of facilities owned or controlled by the college, or blockage of access to or from such facilities, or the occupation of college property after being given notice to depart;

(ii) Interference with the ability of any authorized person to gain access to any activity, program, event, or facility sponsored or controlled by the college;

(iii) Any obstruction or delay of a public safety officer, police officer, firefighter, EMT, or any official of the college;

(iv) The use of force or violence (actual or threatened) to deny, impede, obstruct, impair, or interfere with the freedom

of movement of any person, or the performance of duties of any college employee;

(v) Participation in a disruptive or coercive demonstration. A demonstration is considered disruptive or coercive if it substantially impedes college operations, interferes with the rights of others, or takes place on premises or at times where students are not authorized to be;

(vi) Obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on college property or at college sponsored/supervised functions; or

(vii) Public urination or defecation.

(d) **Disruptive behavior in the classroom** may be defined as, but not limited to, behavior that unreasonably obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., outbursts which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining the learning community as defined in the course syllabus or covenant, and the continued use, after being given notice to stop, of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others, unless use of such technologies are an authorized accommodation for a documented disability for that program).

The faculty member has responsibility for maintaining a productive classroom and can order the temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive behavior or behavior that violates the general rules and regulations of the college for each class session during which the behavior occurs. Extended or permanent exclusion from the classroom, beyond the session in which the conduct occurred, or further conduct action can be effected only through appropriate procedures of the college. The faculty member may also report incidents of classroom misconduct to the student conduct office.

(e) **Forgery, alteration, or the misuse** of college documents, records or identification cards.

(f) **Failure to comply** with the direction of or failure to identify yourself to a college official or other public official acting in the performance of their duties.

(g) **Unauthorized entry** into or onto, or the unauthorized remaining in, or upon, any college premises; or the unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of a college key or other access device.

(h) **Sounding of a false alarm** which includes, but is not limited to, initiating or causing to be initiated any false report, warning or threat, such as that of fire, explosion or emergency that intentionally causes a false emergency response; and the improper use or disabling of safety equipment and signs.

(2) Conduct related to persons.

Students of The Evergreen State College are to practice good citizenship in the campus community and beyond. Our collective efforts include implementation of the education, experiential learning, and skills gained through engagement with the faculty, staff, and students of the college. Engagement can be through civil discussions, a free exchange of ideas, participation in events and programs, or through other interactions where the desire to create spaces for learning are present. Students are encouraged to pursue new opportunities to engage and expand their intellectual curiosities and

develop an understanding of the global society in which we live.

Students in the college community participate with fellow community members (faculty, staff, students, and members of the community beyond The Evergreen State College) in dialogue, educational activities, social events, and more with a focus on civil engagement and being one's best self. To that end it is a community expectation that students or recognized organizations will not engage in the following prohibited conduct, which constitute violations of this code:

(a) **Alcohol, drug, and tobacco violations.**

(i) **Alcohol.** The use, possession, delivery, sale, manufacture, or being observably under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, except as permitted by law and applicable college policies.

(ii) **Cannabis.** The use, possession, delivery, or sale of cannabis or the psychoactive compounds found in cannabis, regardless of form, or being observably under the influence of cannabis or the psychoactive compounds found in cannabis. Cannabis use and possession is illegal under federal law and the college is required to prohibit the possession, use and distribution of illicit drugs, including cannabis, as a condition of receiving federal funding.

(iii) **Drugs.** The use, possession, delivery, sale, manufacture, or being observably under the influence of any mood altering drug, or any other controlled substance under chapter 69.50 RCW, except as prescribed for a student's use by a licensed practitioner.

(iv) **Tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products.** The use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products is prohibited except as allowed by college policy in designated smoking areas. Related products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, bidi, clove cigarettes, water pipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, vaporizers, and snuff.

(b) **Assault.** Unwanted touching, physical harm or abuse, or threats of physical harm or abuse which threaten the health or safety of another person.

(c) **Cyber misconduct.** The term "cyber misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, behavior involving the use of a computer, computer network, the internet, or use of electronic communications including, but not limited to, electronic mail, instant messaging, list serves, electronic bulletin boards/discussion boards, ad forums and social media sites or platforms, to disrupt college function, adversely affect the pursuit of the college's objectives, or to stalk, harm or harass, or engage in other conduct which threatens or is reasonably perceived as threatening the physical or mental safety of another person, or which is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it interferes with or diminishes the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the college, or an employee to engage in work duties.

(d) **Failure to be truthful to the college or a college official.** This includes, but is not limited to, knowingly making false charges against another member of the college community; and providing false or misleading information in an application for admission or to gain employment.

(e) **Failure to follow fire safety regulations.** Failure to evacuate during a fire alarm; the improper use or damaging of fire prevention or safety equipment, such as fire extinguish-

ers, smoke detectors, alarm pull stations, or emergency exits; or the unauthorized setting of fires.

(f) **Harm.** Behavior directed at an individual that based on a reasonable person's standard is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent such that it diminishes or interferes with the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the college or an employee to engage in their work duties. This includes, but is not limited to, intimidation, verbal abuse, threat(s), bullying, or other conduct which threatens or is reasonably perceived as threatening the physical or mental safety of another person. Bullying is repeated or aggressive unwanted behavior, not otherwise protected by law that intentionally humiliates, harms, or intimidates another person.

(g) **Harassment.** Conduct against a person on the basis of protected status that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent as to interfere with or diminishes the ability of a person to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the college, or an employee to engage in work duties.

(h) **Hazing.** Conduct that includes any activity or method of initiation into a recognized organization or student social, living, learning, or athletic group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical or mental harm to any member of the college community.

(i) **Knowingly assisting another person to violate the code** or failing to report to a college official conduct that constitutes significant damage to property or a serious danger to the health or physical safety of an individual.

(j) **Lewd conduct.** Behavior which is sexualized or obscene that is not otherwise protected under the law including, but not limited to, exposing genitalia, and engaging in sexual intercourse or sexual activity in public.

(k) **Obstructive behavior in conduct conferences or hearings.** Any conduct at any stage of a process or investigation that is threatening or disorderly, including:

(i) Failure to abide by the directives of a student conduct official or college official(s) in the performance of their duties;

(ii) Knowing falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information before a student conduct official or hearing panel;

(iii) Deliberate disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a conduct conference or hearing proceeding;

(iv) Making false statements to any student conduct officials or hearing panel;

(v) Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a hearing panel or a student conduct official prior to, or during the course of, a proceeding; or

(vi) Harassment or intimidation of any participant in the college conduct process.

(l) **Recording.** The recording of any private conversation, by any device, without the voluntary permission of all persons engaged in the conversation except as permitted by state law, chapter 9.73 RCW. For purposes of this section, the term "permission" will be considered obtained only when one party has announced to all other parties engaged in the communication or conversation that such communication or conversation will be recorded or transmitted; and the announce-

ment itself is recorded as part of the conversation or communication.

(m) **Retaliation.** Harming, threatening, intimidating, coercing, or taking adverse action of any kind against a person because such person reported an alleged violation of the code or college policy, provided information about an alleged violation, or participated as a witness or in any other capacity in a college investigation or conduct proceeding.

(n) **Theft** (attempted or actual) of property, services, or identity. This includes, but is not limited to, using, taking, attempting to take, possessing, or aiding another to take college property or services, or property belonging to any person, without express permission. Identity theft is the use of another person's name and personal information including, but not limited to, private identifying information, without their permission in order to gain a financial advantage or obtain credit or other benefits in the other person's name.

(o) **Viewing,** distributing, photographing, or filming another person without that person's knowledge and voluntary permission, while the person being photographed, viewed, or filmed is in a place where they would have a reasonable expectation of privacy. The term "permission" will be considered obtained if there are signed waivers, written permission, or verbal agreement recorded with specificity to the content.

(p) **Violation of any college policy** including, but not limited to, residential and dining services policies, appropriate use of information technology resources policies, and WAC 174-136-043 regarding weapons.

(q) **Violation of federal, state, or local law** including being charged by law enforcement, or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, under circumstances where it is reasonable to conclude that the presence of the person on college premises would constitute a danger to the physical or mental safety of a member(s) of the college community.

(r) **Stalking** is a course of conduct directed at a specific person or group that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for their physical or mental safety, or the physical or mental safety of another. A course of conduct includes two or more acts including, but not limited to, those in which a person directly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about the complainant, or interferes with the complainant's property.

(s) **Sexual misconduct.** The term "sexual misconduct" includes sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, relationship violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Sexual harassment as prohibited by Title IX is defined in the supplemental Title IX student conduct procedures. See WAC 174-123-355.

(3) Sexual misconduct and consent.

In order to understand the definitions of prohibited conduct in this section, and to adjudicate complaints of sexual misconduct, it is necessary to provide a further definition of consent. This section provides information about consent related to sexual misconduct.

~~((Consent is permission expressed by words or actions that is clear, knowing, and voluntary, regarding willingness to engage in sexual activity. Consent is active, not passive. Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the~~

other has consented before engaging in the activity. Consent to any one form of sexual activity does not automatically imply consent to any other forms of sexual activity. Previous relationship or prior consent does not imply consent to future sexual acts; this includes "blanket" consent (i.e., permission in advance for any/all actions at a later time or place). Consent can be withdrawn once given, as long as that withdrawal is communicated. There is no requirement for a party to resist the sexual advance or request, and resistance is a clear demonstration of noneconsent.

A person cannot consent if they are incapacitated. Incapacitation is a state where someone cannot make reasoned decisions because they lack the capacity to give consent (e.g., to understand the "who, what, when, where, why or how" of their sexual interaction). A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening or is disoriented, helpless, asleep, or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs. An individual who engages in sexual activity when the individual knows, or should know, that the complainant is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual conduct. The question of what a person should have known is objectively based on what a reasonable person in the place of the participant(s), sober and exercising good judgment, would have known about the condition of the complainant.

Consent cannot be obtained by force or coercion. Force is the use of physical violence and/or imposing on someone physically to gain sexual access. Force also includes threats or intimidation (implied threats) that overcomes free will or resistance. Coercion is unreasonable pressure for sexual activity. When someone makes clear to another person that they do not want sex, that they want to stop, or that they do not want to go past a certain point of sexual interaction, continued pressure beyond that point is coercive.

Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual activity.

This code is applicable regardless of the sexual orientation and/or gender identity of individuals engaging in sexual activity. Conduct is determined a violation as per the reasonable person standard.) Consent means knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. For consent to be valid, there must be at the time of the act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening or are disoriented, helpless, asleep, or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs. An individual who engages in sexual activity when the individual knows, or should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual conduct.

Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

Consent cannot be obtained by force or coercion. Force is the use of physical violence and/or imposing on someone physically to gain sexual access. Force also includes threats or intimidation (words or actions that cause an individual to

submit to or comply with sexual contact or intercourse due to fear for their safety and/or implied threats) that overcomes free will or resistance. Coercion is unreasonable pressure for sexual contact or sexual intercourse. When someone makes clear to another person by word or action that they do not want to engage in sexual contact or intercourse, that they want to stop, or that they do not want to go past a certain point of sexual contact or intercourse, continued pressure beyond that point is coercive.

(a) **Sexual harassment.** The term "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual or gender-based conduct ((of a sexual nature)), including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, quid pro quo harassment, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual or a gendered nature that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent as to:

(i) Deny or limit ((based on sex,)) the ability of a person to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the college ((or an employee to engage in their work duties, that creates)); or

(ii) Alter the terms or conditions of employment for a college employee or employees; and/or

(iii) Create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for other community members.

(b) **Sexual exploitation.** The term "sexual exploitation" means conduct that takes nonconsensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for their own or another's benefit. Sexual exploitation includes, but is not limited to, nonconsensual recording of sexual activity or the nonconsensual distribution of a consensual or nonconsensual recording or image; going beyond the boundaries of consent; forcing another person to engage in sexual activity for payment; or knowingly exposing someone to or transmitting a sexually transmitted infection.

(c) **Sexual violence.** "Sexual violence" is a type of sexual discrimination and harassment. The term "sexual violence" means an act or acts of a sexual nature against a person without their consent. Nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, relationship violence, and stalking are all types of sexual violence.

(i) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger or another body part or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact. Nonconsensual sexual intercourse also includes forcing a person to engage in vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, object, tongue or finger, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact.

(ii) **Nonconsensual sexual contact** is any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual contact includes intentional contact with the lips, breasts, buttock, groin, or genitals, or clothing covering any of those areas, or touching another with any of these body parts, or making another touch you or themselves with or on any of these body parts, or any other intentional bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(d) **Domestic violence.** The term "domestic violence" means the infliction of physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault committed against a current or former spouse or intimate partner, current or former cohabitant, a person with whom the person shares a child in common, or a person with whom one resides.

(e) **Relationship violence.** The term "relationship violence," also known as dating violence, means the infliction of physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault committed against a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the complainant. The existence of such a relationship will be presumed based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(f) **Stalking.** The term "stalking" means a course of conduct directed at a specific person or group that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for their physical or mental safety, or the physical or mental safety of another. A course of conduct includes two or more acts including, but not limited to, those in which a person directs, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about the complainant, or interferes with the complainant's property.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-17-102, filed 8/15/18, effective 9/15/18)

WAC 174-123-200 Interim measures. (1) **Interim restrictions.** The student conduct official or designee may institute interim restrictions prior to, or at any stage during, a student conduct proceeding when the physical or mental safety of any member of the college community is deemed at risk. The interim restriction may include a no contact order and/or loss of privileges.

(a) A student issued an interim restriction that includes loss of privileges will receive written notice of the interim restriction, the reason for instituting an interim restriction, and advised of the date, time, and place for a hearing regarding the interim restriction before the student conduct official, or their designee. The hearing will take place no later than five business days from the effective date of the interim restriction.

(b) The interim restriction has immediate effect and will remain in place during any procedural review process, until an agreement of accountability exists, a student conduct official issues a determination of responsibility, an appeal panel issues a final determination, or the student conduct official notifies the respondent in writing that the interim restriction has been modified or is no longer in effect.

(2) **Interim suspension.** This is a temporary exclusion from enrollment, including exclusion from college premises or denial of access to all activities or privileges for which a respondent might otherwise be eligible, while ((*) an investigation or student conduct proceeding is pending. The senior college official or their designee may impose an interim suspension, which has immediate effect, if there is probable

cause to believe that the respondent has violated any provision of the code and presents a substantial or ongoing danger to the physical or mental safety of any member of the college community; or poses an ongoing threat of substantial disruption of, or interference with, teaching, learning, or the operations of the college.

(a) Any student assigned an interim suspension will be provided oral or written notice of the interim suspension. If oral notice is given, a written notification will be served on the respondent within two business days of the oral notice.

(b) The written notice will be entitled "Notice of Interim Suspension" and will include:

(i) The reasons for imposing the interim suspension, including a description of the conduct giving rise to the interim suspension and reference to the provisions of the code allegedly violated;

(ii) The date, time, and location when the respondent must appear before the senior college official or their designee for a hearing on the interim suspension; and

(iii) The conditions, if any, under which the respondent may physically access the campus or communicate with members of the campus community. If the respondent has been barred from the campus, a notice will be included that warns the student that their privilege to enter into or remain on college premises has been withdrawn, and that the respondent will be considered trespassing if the respondent enters the college campus other than as approved by the senior college official or their designee.

(c) The senior college official or their designee will conduct a hearing on the interim suspension within five business days after imposition of the interim suspension.

(d) During the interim suspension hearing, the issue before the senior college official or their designee is whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the interim suspension should be continued pending the conclusion of student conduct proceedings and/or whether the interim suspension should be less restrictive in scope.

(e) The student will be afforded an opportunity to explain why interim suspension should not be continued while conduct proceedings are pending or why the interim suspension should be less restrictive in scope.

(f) If the student fails to appear at the designated hearing time, the senior college official or their designee may order that the interim suspension remain in place pending the conclusion of the investigation and conduct or Title IX proceedings.

(g) As soon as practicable following the hearing, the senior college official or their designee will issue a written decision which will include a brief explanation for any decision continuing and/or modifying the interim suspension.

(h) To the extent permissible under applicable law, the senior college official or their designee will provide a copy of the decision to all persons or offices who may be bound or protected by it.

(i) In cases involving allegations of assault, non-Title IX sexual misconduct, or Title IX sexual harassment, the complainant will be notified that an interim suspension has been imposed on the same day that the interim suspension notice is served on the student. The college will also provide the com-

plainant with same day notice of any subsequent changes to the interim suspension order.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-17-102, filed 8/15/18, effective 9/15/18)

WAC 174-123-220 Informal resolution and agreement of accountability. The student conduct official will attempt to resolve a complaint informally using an agreement of accountability. If a complaint is not resolved using an agreement of accountability, the student conduct official will resolve the complaint by issuing a determination of responsibility and required resolution and sanction(s) as described in WAC 174-123-230.

(1) The student conduct official may work with any respondent who acknowledges responsibility for engaging in prohibited conduct to identify the resolution and sanction(s). If an agreement is reached, the resolution and sanction(s) will be contained in a written agreement of accountability signed by both the respondent and the student conduct official.

(2) A respondent who enters into an agreement of accountability will comply with the resolution and sanction(s) set forth in the agreement and will have no further right of appeal under the code. A respondent's failure to comply with an agreement of accountability may be the basis for a separate violation of misconduct under the code. A separate violation will be addressed using a conduct hold and/or initiating a conduct conference as described in WAC 172-123-210. The conduct hold will remain in effect until such time that the student satisfactorily completes all of the requirements of the agreement of accountability. If a complaint alleges non-Title IX sexual misconduct or assault, the informal resolution and agreement of accountability will not be used and a notice of determination of responsibility and required resolution and sanctions process (WAC 174-123-230) is used.

(3) A restorative practice process may be a component of an agreement of accountability in cases where the student has taken responsibility for their actions and a violation of the code. An agreement may be entered into as part of an agreement of accountability that the student is choosing to voluntarily participate in a restorative practice process. A restorative practice is intended to provide resolution and restoration for those negatively impacted by the code violation, as well as, give the respondent an opportunity to make the situation as right as possible.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-17-102, filed 8/15/18, effective 9/15/18)

WAC 174-123-230 Notice of determination of responsibility and required resolution and sanctions. (1) If a complaint is not resolved by entering into an agreement of accountability, the student conduct official will issue a determination of responsibility based on a preponderance of the evidence standard. Preponderance of the evidence standard means it is more likely than not that the information and evidence shows that an alleged policy violation did or did not occur.

(2) The student conduct official may take any of the following actions:

(a) Determine the respondent is not responsible for violating the code and end the conduct proceedings.

(b) Determine the available information is inconclusive at this time. The student conduct official may revisit the determination if additional relevant information becomes available.

(c) Determine the respondent is responsible for violating the code and issue required resolution(s) and sanction(s) as described in WAC 174-123-240.

(3) The determination of responsibility will identify the specific conduct that has violated the code. The required resolution and sanction(s) will state the tasks or actions, and associated deadlines, the respondent must execute to address violations of the code.

(4) The student conduct official's determination of responsibility and required resolution and sanction(s) will be final unless the respondent files a timely appeal to the senior college official. If a complaint alleges assault, non-Title IX sexual misconduct, or (~~assault~~) Title IX sexual harassment, the complainant is to be informed of the final determination and any required resolution and sanction imposed against the respondent and may file a timely appeal to the senior college official.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-17-102, filed 8/15/18, effective 9/15/18)

WAC 174-123-260 Filing of appeal. (1) A respondent may appeal a student conduct official's determination of responsibility and required resolution and sanction(s) by filing a written notice of appeal to the senior college official within ten calendar days of service of the student conduct official's determination. Failure to file a notice of appeal within the time period constitutes the waiver of the right to appeal and the student conduct official's determination of responsibility and required resolution and sanction(s) will be final.

(2) The student filing the notice of appeal must include a brief statement explaining why they are seeking review of the determination of responsibility and/or required resolution and sanction(s).

(3) Except in cases of (~~an~~) interim measures, including interim suspension and/or interim restriction(s), the required resolutions and sanction(s) will be on hold pending the outcome of an appeal. Interim measures will remain in place pending the outcome of the appeal.

(4) The parties to an appeal will be the appellant and the student conduct official.

(5) On appeal, the college bears the burden of establishing the evidentiary facts underlying the determination of responsibility and required resolution by a preponderance of the evidence.

(6) The appellant has a right to a prompt and fair hearing as provided for in these procedures.

(7) Student conduct appeal to determinations in which the required resolution and sanction(s) include the following will be reviewed through a brief adjudicative proceeding:

- (a) Suspensions of ten days or less;
- (b) College housing suspension or eviction;
- (c) Deferred action;

(d) Probation; and
 (e) Any conditions or terms imposed in conjunction with one of the foregoing resolution and sanctions.

(8) Student conduct appeal to determinations in which the required resolution and sanction(s) include the following will be reviewed by the student conduct appeal panel:

- (a) Suspensions in excess of ten days;
 - (b) College expulsions; and
 - (c) Complaints referred to the panel by the student conduct review officer or senior college official, or designee.
- (9) Except as provided elsewhere in this code, warnings and findings of no responsibility are final and are not subject to appeal.

(10) In cases involving allegations of assault or non-Title IX sexual misconduct (~~(or assault)~~), the complainant has the right to appeal the following outcomes using the same procedures as set forth above for the respondent:

- (a) The determination of responsibility; or
- (b) Any required resolutions and sanction(s) imposed including a disciplinary warning.

(11) If the respondent appeals a decision imposing discipline for ~~((a))~~ an assault or non-Title IX sexual misconduct violation, the college will notify the complainant of the appeal and provide the complainant an opportunity to participate in the appeal.

(12) Except as otherwise specified in the code, a complainant who appeals a determination of responsibility and required resolution and sanction(s) within ten calendar days of notice of the determination, or who participates as a party to a respondent's appeal of a determination of responsibility and required resolution and sanction(s) will be afforded the same procedural rights as are afforded the respondent.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-17-102, filed 8/15/18, effective 9/15/18)

WAC 174-123-270 Brief adjudicative appeal proceedings—Initial hearing. Brief adjudicative proceedings will be conducted by a conduct review officer. Conduct review officers shall be designated by the senior college official. The conduct review officer will not participate in any case in which they are or have been involved; or in which there is direct or personal interest, prejudice, or bias.

(1) The parties to a brief adjudicative proceeding are the respondent, the student conduct official, and the complainant in cases involving assault or non-Title IX sexual misconduct (~~((or assault))~~). Before taking action, the conduct review officer will conduct an informal hearing and provide each party:

- (a) An opportunity to be informed of the college's view of the matter; and
- (b) An opportunity to explain the student's view of the matter.

(2) The conduct review officer will schedule an informal hearing and serve written notice of the hearing to the parties at least seven calendar days in advance of the hearing. The notice of informal hearing will include the following:

- (a) The date, time, location, and nature of the hearing;
- (b) A date by which the parties must identify advisors as well as requests for reasonable accommodations, if any;

(c) A date on which the parties may review documents held by the student conduct official; and

(d) A date by which the parties must provide a list of witnesses and copies of any documents to other parties and to the conduct review officer.

(3) The conduct review officer will serve an initial decision upon the parties within ten calendar days of the completion of the informal hearing. The initial decision will contain a brief written statement of the reasons for the decision and information about how to seek administrative review of the initial decision. If no request for review is filed within ten business days of service of the initial decision, the initial decision will be deemed the final decision.

(4) If the conduct review officer determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a college or college housing suspension of more than ten days or college expulsion or college housing eviction, the matter will be referred to the student conduct appeal panel for a new hearing.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-17-102, filed 8/15/18, effective 9/15/18)

WAC 174-123-280 Brief adjudicative appeal proceedings—Administrative review of initial decision. (1)

An initial decision may be appealed to the senior college official or designee, provided a party files a written request including the grounds for appeal for review with the conduct review officer within ten calendar days of service of the initial decision. The grounds for appeal are limited to new information not available at the time of the initial process, procedural error that impacted the outcome of the process, and/or bias of the student conduct official, or the conduct review officer.

(2) The senior college official or designee will not participate in any case in which they are or have been involved as a complainant or witness, or in which there is direct or personal interest, prejudice, or bias.

(3) During the appeal, the senior college official or designee will give each party an opportunity to file written responses explaining their view of the matter and will make any inquiries necessary to ascertain whether the sanctions should be modified or whether the proceedings should be referred to the student conduct appeal panel for a hearing.

(4) The decision on appeal must be in writing and must include a brief statement of the reason for the decision and must be served on the parties within twenty calendar days of the request for appeal. The decision will contain a notice whether appeal to Thurston County superior court is available.

(5) If the senior college official or designee determines that the respondent's conduct may warrant imposition of a college ~~((or college housing))~~ suspension of more than ten days or college expulsion ~~((or college housing eviction))~~, the matter will be referred to the student conduct appeal panel for a hearing.

(6) In cases involving allegations of assault or non-Title IX sexual misconduct (~~((or assault))~~), the senior college official or designee, on the same date as the final decision is served on the respondent, will serve a written notice upon the

complainant informing the complainant whether the allegations of assault or non-Title IX sexual misconduct (~~(or assault)~~) were found to have merit and describing any resolution and sanctions and/or conditions imposed upon the respondent, including suspension or expulsion of the respondent. The decision will contain a notice whether appeal to Thurston County superior court is available.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-17-102, filed 8/15/18, effective 9/15/18)

WAC 174-123-290 Appeal panel proceedings—Hearing procedures. (1) If not addressed in the code, the proceedings of the student conduct appeal panel will be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

(2) The senior college official, or designee, will schedule a hearing before the student conduct appeal panel and serve written notice of the hearing to the parties at least ten calendar days in advance of the hearing. The notice period may be shortened by the senior college official, or designee, with the parties' permission; and the senior college official may reschedule a hearing to a later time for good cause.

(3) The notice of hearing will include the following:

(a) The date, time, location, and nature of the hearing;

(b) A date by which the parties must identify advisors as well as requests for reasonable accommodations, if any;

(c) A date by which the parties must provide a list of witnesses and copies of any documents to be provided to the appeal panel. The date for providing documents must be at least five business days prior to the hearing date. Documents and witness names submitted after the deadline stated in the hearing notice will be admitted at the discretion of the appeal panel. Documents and witness names submitted after the deadline may be excluded from the hearing absent a showing of good cause;

(d) A date on which the parties to the appeal may review documents and witness lists submitted to the panel, which must be no less than three business days prior to the hearing.

(4) The panel chair is authorized to make determinations regarding requests for postponement, release of information, or other procedural requests, provided that good cause for the request is shown. Requests for reasonable accommodations based on disability will be determined by the college's disability compliance officer.

(5) The panel chair may provide to the panel members in advance of the hearing copies of:

(a) The student conduct official's determination of responsibility and required resolution and sanction(s);

(b) The decision of the conduct review officer, if any;

(c) The review on appeal of the senior college official, if any; and

(d) The notice of appeal by the respondent or complainant.

If doing so, the chair should remind the members that these documents are not evidence of any facts they may allege.

(6) The parties may agree before the hearing to designate specific exhibits as admissible without objection and, if they

do so, whether the panel chair may provide copies of these admissible exhibits to the panel members before the hearing.

(7) Only those materials and information presented at the hearing will be considered. The chair may exclude or limit ineffectual, irrelevant, or unduly repetitious information.

(8) The student conduct official or designee, upon request, will provide reasonable assistance to the parties in obtaining relevant and admissible evidence that is within the college's control.

(9) Communications between panel members and other hearing participants regarding any issue in the proceeding, other than procedural communications that are necessary to maintain an orderly process, are generally prohibited without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. Any improper communication, as further provided in RCW 34.05.455, is prohibited.

(10) Each party may be accompanied at the hearing by an advisor of the party's choice. A respondent, or complainant in a case involving allegations of non-Title IX sexual misconduct or assault may elect to be represented by an attorney at their own cost, and will be deemed to have waived that right unless, at least five business days before the hearing, written notice of the attorney's identity and participation is filed with the panel chair with a copy to the student conduct official. The panel will ordinarily be advised by an assistant attorney general. ~~((If the respondent or the complainant is represented by an attorney,))~~ The student conduct official may ~~((also))~~ be represented by an assistant attorney general.

(11) The complainant and the respondent are neither encouraged nor required to be assisted by an advisor of their choosing at their own expense. Both the respondent and the complainant will be provided the option to have a trained procedural advisor provided by the college to assist them prior to and during the hearing in order to understand their rights in the appeal process. A college procedural advisor may not represent an individual in the appeal proceeding. Proceedings will not be automatically delayed due to the scheduling conflicts of any advisor.

(12) Each party is expected to present all information during the proceedings.

(13) In cases where the complaint alleges non-Title IX sexual misconduct or assault, the complainant may present information during the proceedings.

(14) Upon the failure of any party to attend or participate in a hearing, the student conduct appeal panel may either:

(a) Proceed with the hearing and issue a determination; or

(b) Serve a decision of default in accordance with RCW 34.05.440.

(15) The hearing is a closed proceeding which includes only members of the panel; the advisor to the panel, if any; the student conduct official and their advisor, if any; the complainant and the respondent and their advisor(s), if any; and persons requested to provide information at the hearing. Admission of any other person to the hearing is at the discretion of the panel chair.

(16) All procedural questions and other decisions are subject to the final decision of the panel chair unless otherwise provided for in these rules. The chair will ensure that the proceeding is held in an orderly manner such that the rights of

all parties to a full, fair, and impartial proceeding that adheres to the code is achieved.

(17) There will be a single verbatim sound recording of the hearing, and the record will be on file with the senior college official and is the property of the college in accordance with RCW 34.05.449.

(18) All testimony will be given under oath or affirmation. Evidence will be admitted or excluded at the discretion of the panel chair.

(19) In cases involving allegations of non-Title IX sexual misconduct or assault, neither party will directly question or cross examine one another. Attorneys for the parties are also prohibited from questioning the other party. All cross examination questions will be directed to the panel chair, who has the discretion to pose the questions on the party's behalf.

(20) In cases involving Title IX sexual harassment, non-Title IX sexual misconduct, or assault, the senior college official may designate an external hearing panel chair to preside over the hearing. The external hearing panel chair will perform all of the functions of a presiding officer under the code of student rights and responsibilities and WAC 174-108-910, unless otherwise specified in the appointment letter.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-17-102, filed 8/15/18, effective 9/15/18)

WAC 174-123-310 Appeal panel proceedings—Determination. (1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the student conduct appeal panel will permit the parties to make closing statements in whatever form it wishes to receive them. The panel also may permit each party to propose findings, conclusions, and/or a proposed decision for its consideration.

(2) Only members of the student conduct appeal panel and the advisor to the panel, if any, will be present for deliberations. Deliberations are not recorded.

(3) Within fifteen calendar days following the conclusion of the hearing, or the panel's receipt of closing arguments, whichever is later, the panel will issue a decision in accordance with RCW 34.05.461 and WAC 10-08-210 or written notice specifying the date by which it will issue a decision. The decision will include findings on all material issues of fact and conclusions on all material issues of law, including which, if any, provisions of the code were violated. Any findings based substantially on the credibility of evidence or the demeanor of witnesses will be so identified.

(4) The panel's decision will also include a determination on appropriate resolution and sanction(s), if any. The panel may affirm, reverse, or modify the required resolution and sanction(s) issued by the student conduct official and/or issue additional sanction(s) or condition(s) as authorized herein.

(5) The panel's decision will also include a statement of the available procedures and time frames for seeking reconsideration. The decision will also include a notice whether appeal to Thurston County superior court is available.

(6) The panel chair will serve copies of the decision on the parties through the senior college official's office. It is the responsibility of the student to forward any notice or communication to their advisor. If a student signs a release of infor-

mation, the chair of the panel will provide the decision to legal counsel representing a student.

(7) In cases involving allegations of assault, non-Title IX sexual misconduct, or ((assault)) Title IX sexual harassment, the chair of the student conduct appeal panel, on the same date as the decision is served to the respondent, will serve a written notice to the complainant informing the complainant of the panel's decision and describing any sanction(s) and/or condition(s) issued to the respondent, including suspension or expulsion of the respondent. The complainant may request reconsideration of the panel's decision subject to the same procedures and deadlines applicable to other parties. The notice will also inform the complainant of the available procedures and time frames for seeking reconsideration. The decision will also include a notice whether appeal to Thurston County superior court is available.

SUPPLEMENTAL TITLE IX STUDENT CONDUCT PROCEDURES AND PROHIBITED CONDUCT

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-355 Order of precedence. This supplemental procedure applies to allegations of sexual harassment subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education. See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with Evergreen's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 174-123-110 through 174-123-340, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence.

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-360 Title IX definitions. For purposes of the supplemental Title IX student conduct procedure, the following terms used have the definitions contained in the Title IX policy and procedure and the terms below are defined as follows:

(1) **Consent** means knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. For consent to be valid, there must be at the time of the act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening or are disoriented, helpless, asleep, or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs. An individual who engages in sexual activity when the individual knows, or should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual conduct.

Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

Consent cannot be obtained by force or coercion. Force is the use of physical violence and/or imposing on someone physically to gain sexual access. Force also includes threats or intimidation (words or actions that cause an individual to submit to or comply with sexual contact or intercourse due to

fear for their safety and/or implied threats) that overcomes free will or resistance. Coercion is unreasonable pressure for sexual contact or sexual intercourse. When someone makes clear to another person by word or action that they do not want to engage in sexual contact or intercourse, that they want to stop, or that they do not want to go past a certain point of sexual contact or intercourse, continued pressure beyond that point is coercive.

(2) **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

(3) **Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

(4) **Formal complaint** means a writing submitted by the complainant or signed by the Title IX coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the college conduct an investigation.

(5) **Education program or activity** includes locations, events, or circumstances over which Evergreen exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurred. It also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization officially recognized by the college.

(6) **Determination of responsibility** means a decision of the hearing panel regarding whether the respondent is responsible for the alleged violation(s) of this Title IX policy. If the respondent is found responsible for the alleged violations, the determination of responsibility will include discipline and sanctions, as appropriate.

(7) **Interim suspension** means a temporary exclusion from enrollment, including exclusion from college premises or denial of access to all activities or privileges for which a respondent might otherwise be eligible, pending investigation and resolution of disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the procedure and standards set forth in WAC 174-123-200(2).

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-370 Prohibited conduct under Title IX. Pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(13) and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, Evergreen may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of "sexual harassment."

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, "sexual harassment" encompasses the following conduct:

(1) **Quid pro quo harassment.** An Evergreen employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of Evergreen on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(2) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to Evergreen's educational programs or activities, or Evergreen employment.

(3) **Sexual assault.** Sexual assault includes the following conduct:

(a) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse.** Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

(b) **Nonconsensual sexual contact.** Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(c) **Incest.** Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of eighteen.

(d) **Statutory rape.** Consensual sexual intercourse between someone who is eighteen years of age or older and someone who is under the age of sixteen.

(4) **Domestic violence.** Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.

(5) **Dating violence.** Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person:

(a) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(b) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship;

(ii) The type of relationship; and

(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(6) **Stalking.** Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-380 Title IX jurisdiction. (1) This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct:

(a) Occurred in the United States;

(b) Occurred during an Evergreen educational program or activity; and

(c) Meets the definition of sexual harassment as that term is defined in this supplemental procedure.

(2) For purposes of this procedure, an "educational program or activity" is defined as locations, events, or circum-

stances over which Evergreen exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurred. This definition includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by Evergreen.

(3) Proceedings under this procedure must be dismissed if the Title IX coordinator determines that one or all of the requirements of subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section have not been met. Dismissal under this procedure does not prohibit the college from pursuing other disciplinary action based on allegations that the respondent violated other provisions of Evergreen's code of student rights and responsibilities, WAC 174-123-170.

(4) If the Title IX coordinator and/or the student conduct official determines the facts in the investigation report are not sufficient to support Title IX jurisdiction and/or pursuit of a Title IX violation, the student conduct official will issue a notice of dismissal in whole or part to the parties explaining why some or all of the Title IX claims have been dismissed.

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-390 Initiation of discipline. (1) Upon receiving the Title IX investigation report from the Title IX coordinator, the student conduct official will independently review the report to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to pursue a disciplinary action against the respondent for engaging in prohibited conduct under Title IX.

(2) If the student conduct official determines that there are sufficient grounds to proceed under these procedures, the student conduct official will initiate a Title IX disciplinary proceeding by filing a written disciplinary notice with the chair of the hearing panel. The hearing panel chair will serve the notice on the respondent and the complainant, and their respective advisors. The notice must:

- (a) Set forth the basis for Title IX jurisdiction;
 - (b) Identify the alleged Title IX violation(s);
 - (c) Set forth the facts underlying the allegation(s);
 - (d) Identify the range of possible sanctions that may be imposed if the respondent is found responsible for the alleged violation(s); and
 - (e) Explain that the parties are entitled to be accompanied by their chosen advisors during the hearing and that:
 - (i) The advisors will be responsible for questioning all witnesses and the other party(ies) on the party's behalf;
 - (ii) An advisor may be an attorney; and
 - (iii) Evergreen will appoint the party an advisor of the college's choosing at no cost to the party, if the party fails to do so; and
 - (iv) A party may select to have an individual as emotional support with them during Title IX processes. This individual is separate from an advisor, and will serve the purpose of providing care and emotional support for the party, but will not participate during the processes.
- (3) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-400 Prehearing procedure. (1) Upon receiving the disciplinary notice, the hearing panel chair will

send a hearing notice to all parties, in compliance with WAC 174-123-290(3). In no event will the hearing date be set less than ten days after the Title IX coordinator provided the final investigation report to the parties.

(2) A party may choose an advisor to be at the hearing with them. The advisor will be conducting the cross-examination of parties and witnesses. The full names and contact information for all advisors selected by the parties to appear at the hearing must be submitted to the hearing panel chair at least five days before the hearing.

(3) A party may choose to have an attorney serve as their advisor at the party's own expense. This right will be waived unless, at least five days before the hearing, the attorney files a notice of appearance with the hearing panel chair, with copies to all parties and the student conduct official.

(4) Parties may also select an individual to serve as emotional support during the hearing. This individual will not have a formal role in the hearing, and will serve the purpose of providing care and emotional support for the party.

(5) In preparation for the hearing, the parties will have equal access to all evidence gathered by the investigator during the investigation, regardless of whether Evergreen intends to offer the evidence at the hearing.

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-410 Rights of parties. (1) The Evergreen State College's code of student rights and responsibilities, this chapter, and this supplemental procedure shall apply equally to all parties.

(2) The college has the burden of offering and presenting sufficient testimony and evidence to establish that the respondent is responsible for a Title IX violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(3) The respondent will be presumed not responsible until such time as the disciplinary process has been finally resolved.

(4) During the hearing, each party shall be represented by advisors. The parties are entitled to advisors of their own choosing and the advisor may be an attorney. If a party does not choose a process advisor, then the Title IX coordinator will appoint a process advisor of the college's choosing on the party's behalf at no expense to the party.

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-420 Evidence. The introduction and consideration of evidence during the hearing is subject to the following procedures and restrictions:

(1) Relevance: The hearing chair shall review all questions for relevance and shall explain on the record their reasons for excluding any question based on lack of relevance.

(2) Relevance means that information elicited by the question makes facts in dispute more or less likely to be true.

(3) Questions or evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant and must be excluded, unless such question or evidence:

- (a) Is asked or offered to prove someone other than the respondent committed the alleged misconduct; or

(b) Concerns specific incidents of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.

(4) Cross-examination required: If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination during the live hearing, the hearing panel must not rely on any statement by that party or witness in reaching a determination of responsibility.

(5) No negative inference: The hearing panel may not make an inference regarding responsibility solely on a witness's or party's absence from the hearing or refusal to answer questions.

(6) Privileged evidence: The hearing panel shall not consider legally privileged information unless the holder has effectively waived the privilege. Privileged information includes, but is not limited to, information protected by the following:

- (a) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;
 - (b) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;
 - (c) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;
 - (d) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;
 - (e) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and
 - (f) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.
- (7) Recording of live hearing: The live hearing will be audio-recorded, and copies may be provided to the parties, upon written request.

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-430 Initial order. (1) In addition to complying with WAC 174-123-310, the hearing panel will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:

- (a) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;
 - (b) Describes the grievance and disciplinary procedures, starting with filing of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility, including notices to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;
 - (c) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination of responsibility for each charge;
 - (d) Reaches conclusions as to whether the facts establish whether the respondent is responsible for engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX;
 - (e) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the hearing panel's determination of responsibility for each allegation;
 - (f) Describes any disciplinary sanction or conditions imposed against the respondent, if any;
 - (g) Describes to what extent, if any, the complainant is entitled to remedies designed to restore or preserve the complainant's equal access to Evergreen's educational programs or activities; and
 - (h) Describes the process for appealing the initial order.
- (2) The hearing panel chair will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.

NEW SECTION

WAC 174-123-440 Appeals. (1) The parties shall have the right to appeal from the initial order's determination of

responsibility and/or dismissal of an allegation(s) of sexual harassment in a formal complaint. The parties may by filing a written notice of appeal with the hearing panel chair within ten calendar days of service of the student conduct official's, or hearing panel's decision. Failure to timely file a notice of appeal constitutes a waiver of the right to appeal and the decision shall be deemed final.

Either party may appeal based on the following criteria: Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the determination; new evidence discovered that was not reasonably available at the time of the determination; a conflict of interest from a Title IX administrator; or severity of sanctioning is not consistent with the violation.

(2) The president or their designee will determine whether the grounds for appeal have merit, provide the rationale for this conclusion, and state whether the disciplinary sanction and condition(s) imposed in the initial order are affirmed, vacated, or amended, and, if amended, set forth any new disciplinary sanction and/or condition(s).

(3) The president's office shall serve the final decision on the parties simultaneously.

NEW SECTION

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is decodified and recodified as follows:

Old WAC Number	New WAC Number
174-123-350	174-123-450

WSR 21-08-044 EMERGENCY RULES HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

[Filed April 1, 2021, 4:57 p.m., effective April 1, 2021, 4:57 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: The agency is amending this section due to some clients receiving long-term services and supports who have accumulated resources under requirements described in section 6008 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that may result in their loss of coverage when the public health emergency (PHE) ends. The proposed rules allow the client to spend down these excess resources over twelve months beginning the month following the end of the PHE. Additionally, the interim rule with comment published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that is being codified in 42 C.F.R. 433.400 requires action on changes in circumstances for these clients, which had been prohibited under FFCRA. This emergency is necessary while the agency works through the permanent rule-making process. The agency filed the proposed rule making under WSR 21-07-122 and a virtual public hearing will be held on April 27, 2021.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 182-512-0550.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160.

Other Authority: 42 C.F.R. 433.400.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: See purpose.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 1, 2021.

Wendy Barcus
Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-23-063, filed 11/15/19, effective 1/1/20)

WAC 182-512-0550 SSI-related medical—All other excluded resources. All resources described in this section are excluded resources for SSI-related medical programs. Unless otherwise stated, interest earned on the resource amount is counted as unearned income.

(1) Resources necessary for a person who is blind or disabled to fulfill a self-sufficiency plan approved by the agency.

(2) Retroactive payments from SSI or old age, survivors, and disability insurance (OASDI), including benefits a person receives under the interim assistance reimbursement agreement with the Social Security Administration, are excluded for nine months following the month of receipt. This exclusion applies to:

(a) Payments received by the person, the person's spouse, or any other person financially responsible for the person;

(b) SSI payments for benefits due for the month(s) before the month of continuing payment;

(c) OASDI payments for benefits due for a month that is two or more months before the month of continuing payment; and

(d) Proceeds from these payments as long as they are held as cash, or in a checking or savings account. The funds may be commingled with other funds, but must remain identifiable from the other funds for this exclusion to apply. This exclusion does not apply once the payments have been converted to any other type of resource.

(3) All resources specifically excluded by federal law, such as those described in subsections (4) through (11) of this section as long as such funds are identifiable.

(4) Payments made under Title II of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

(5) The excluded resources described in WAC 182-512-0770 and other resources of American Indians/Alaska Natives that are excluded by federal law.

(6) Restitution payment and any interest earned from this payment to persons of Japanese or Aleut ancestry who were relocated and interned during war time under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Restitution Act.

(7) Funds received from the Agent Orange Settlement Fund or any other funds established to settle Agent Orange liability claims.

(8) Payments or interest accrued on payments received under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act received by the injured person, the surviving spouse, children, grandchildren, or grandparents.

(9) Payments or interest accrued on payments received under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act of 2000 (EEOICA) received by the injured person, the surviving spouse, children, grandchildren, or grandparents.

(10) Payments from:

(a) The Dutch government under the Netherlands' Act on Benefits for Victims of Persecution (WUV).

(b) The Victims of Nazi Persecution Act of 1994 to survivors of the Holocaust.

(c) Susan Walker vs. Bayer Corporation, et al., 96-C-5024 (N.D. Ill.) (May 8, 1997) settlement funds.

(d) Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998 P.L. 105-369.

(11) The unspent social insurance payments received due to wage credits granted under sections 500 through 506 of the Austrian General Social Insurance Act.

(12) Tax refunds and earned income tax credit refunds and payments are excluded as resources for twelve months after the month of receipt.

(13) Payments from a state administered victim's compensation program for a period of nine calendar months after the month of receipt.

(14) Cash or in-kind items received as a settlement for the purpose of repairing or replacing a specific excluded resource are excluded:

(a) For nine months. This includes relocation assistance provided by state or local government.

(b) Up to a maximum of thirty months, when:

(i) The person intends to repair or replace the excluded resource; and

(ii) Circumstances beyond the control of the settlement recipient prevented the repair or replacement of the excluded resource within the first or second nine months of receipt of the settlement.

(c) For an indefinite period, if the settlement is from federal relocation assistance.

(d) Permanently, if the settlement is assistance received under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act or other assistance provided under a federal statute because of a catastrophe which is declared to be a major disaster by the President of the United States, or is comparable assistance

received from a state or local government or from a disaster assistance organization. Interest earned on this assistance is also excluded from resources. Any cash or in-kind items received as a settlement and excluded under this subsection are available resources when not used within the allowable time periods.

(15) Insurance proceeds or other assets recovered by a Holocaust survivor.

(16) Pension funds owned by an ineligible spouse. Pension funds are defined as funds held in a(n):

(a) Individual retirement account (IRA) as described by the IRS code; or

(b) Work-related pension plan (including plans for self-employed persons, known as Keogh plans).

(17) Cash payments received from a medical or social service agency to pay for medical or social services are excluded for one calendar month following the month of receipt.

(18) SSA- or division of vocational rehabilitation (DVR)-approved plans for achieving self-support (PASS) accounts, allowing blind or disabled persons to set aside resources necessary for the achievement of the plan's goals, are excluded.

(19) Food and nutrition programs with federal involvement. This includes Washington Basic Food, school reduced and free meals and milk programs and WIC.

(20) Gifts to, or for the benefit of, a person under eighteen years old who has a life-threatening condition, from an organization described in section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that code, as follows:

(a) In-kind gifts that are not converted to cash; or

(b) Cash gifts up to a total of two thousand dollars in a calendar year.

(21) Veteran's payments made to, or on behalf of, natural children of Vietnam veterans regardless of their age or marital status, for any disability resulting from spina bifida suffered by these children.

(22) The following are among assets that are not resources and as such are neither excluded nor counted:

(a) Home energy assistance/support and maintenance assistance;

(b) Retroactive in-home supportive services payments to ineligible spouses and parents; and

(c) Gifts of domestic travel tickets.

(23) Resources accumulated in a separate account, designated by the client, that result from work activity during the client's enrollment in apple health for workers with disabilities (HWD) program under chapter 182-511 WAC.

(24) Limited to clients who have been or continue to be subject to participation as defined in WAC 182-513-1100 during the public health emergency (PHE), resources accumulated due to not increasing participation in response to section 6008(b) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) are excluded for:

(a) The duration of the PHE; and

(b) A period of twelve months after the PHE ends.

(25) Resources listed in the program operations manual system (POMS), not otherwise excluded under this section,

are excluded (see SSA POMS Section SI 01130.050 <http://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lnx/0501130050>).

WSR 21-08-051
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-42—Filed April 2, 2021, 3:44 p.m., effective April 2, 2021, 3:44 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: Amends rules for Puget Sound commercial sea urchins.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-75000D.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This emergency rule closes harvest of green sea urchin in all Sea Urchin Management Districts because the post-spawn urchin condition is not suitable to bring to market and no additional harvest is anticipated. Immediate adoption of this rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare. Observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to public interest. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 2, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 220-340-75000D Commercial sea urchin fisheries.
(21-34)

WSR 21-08-053
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-44—Filed April 2, 2021, 4:40 p.m., effective April 5, 2021]

Effective Date of Rule: April 5, 2021.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to open commercial crabbing in Grays Harbor.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-42000J and 220-340-45000Z; and amending WAC 220-340-420 and 220-340-450.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Mandatory, minimum meat recovery requirements for coastal crab will be achieved by the opening dates contained herein. The Washington department of health has determined that while the meat in Dungeness crab in all areas of the Washington coast is safe for human consumption, the viscera from crab caught between the Washington/Oregon border and Point Chehalis, Washington are unsafe for human consumption and have issued a recommendation requiring evisceration of all crab caught in this area. To strengthen the enforcement of an evisceration requirement needed to protect public health, all crab landed into Washington from any west coast area south of Point Chehalis, Washington must be eviscerated. Domoic acid levels in the crab viscera in the area north of Point Chehalis, Washington are below federal action levels and are considered safe for human consumption, landings of crab from this area do not require similar processing restrictions to remove the viscera necessary to protect public health. However, restrictions on where fishermen may fish their gear are needed to ensure that crab are not harvested from areas with high domoic acid in the viscera and reported as landings from areas where domoic acid in viscera are low (north of Point Chehalis, Washington). Further delaying the opening of the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery until domoic acid in crab viscera is below federal action levels, which could take several months, would cause significant economic harm to the coastal crab industry and to the coastal communities dependent on this highly valuable fishery. In addition, delaying the season into spring poses an additional risk to marine mammals including Endangered Species Act listed humpback whales and Marine Mammal Protection Act Gray whales which are more abundant off the Washington coast in the spring by increasing the risk of entanglement with commercial crab gear. Emergency rules are necessary to implement a longer gear set period which will allow for safer fish-

ing conditions and improved enforceability of area restrictions when gear is set. A delay due to elevated marine toxins aligns with the Tri-State Crab Agreement and similar rules in Oregon and California. Tribal special management area descriptions conform with recent state/tribal agreements. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules. The Westport Boat Basin is closed to commercial crab fishing to prevent conflicts with vessel traffic in a limited area. New hold inspections will provide flexibility and by allowing fishers to access different markets. This rule makes it clear that any new hold inspection certificate issued will supersede any previous version issued to the same license or vessel to allow accurate tracking. This e-reg removes the evisceration requirement for Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor to commercial Dungeness crab fishing after the Washington department of health has determined that the meat in Dungeness crab in all areas of the Washington coast is safe for human consumption, the viscera from crab caught between the Washington/Oregon border and Point Chehalis and inside Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay, Washington is safe for human consumption.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 2, Amended 0, Repealed 2.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 2, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-42000K Commercial crab fishery—Unlawful acts. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-420, effective immediately until further notice:

(1) It is unlawful to land, or purchase Dungeness crab taken from Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, Columbia River, or Washington coastal or adjacent waters of the Pacific Ocean from any vessel, unless:

(a) The vessel hold inspection certificate numbers are recorded on all shellfish fish receiving tickets completed for coastal Dungeness crab landings until further notice and;

(b) The vessel has a valid Oregon vessel inspection certificate or a Washington vessel inspection certificate dated on or after February 15, 2021 identified with an individual inspection number that includes the letters "EVS" indicating that evisceration is required for all crab sold by this license or the letters "NOR" indicating north of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) and evisceration is not required.

(c) A Washington vessel inspection certificate is only valid when signed by an authorized WDFW employee.

(d) A Washington vessel hold inspection certificate dated on or after April 5, 2021 supersedes any hold inspection certificate previously issued to the same license or associated designated vessel.

(2) It is unlawful to possess or deliver Dungeness crab unless the following conditions are met:

(a) All crab caught north of Point Arena, CA and south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) must be delivered to a processing facility with an approved Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan and eviscerated or;

(b) Dungeness crab are delivered to a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife licensed Fish Dealer and/or Wholesale Fish Buyer and transported or sold to a facility with an approved HACCP plan and eviscerated. The vessel inspection number must accompany the crab to the final designation where it will be eviscerated.

(3) It is unlawful to donate, sell or attempt to sell to retailers or consumers live or whole Dungeness crab when caught north of Cape Falcon, OR (45°46'00" N. Lat) and south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat).

(4) It is unlawful for a vessel to use more than 200 pots in the Makah SMA beginning immediately, until 8:00 A.M. April 17, 2021. Fishers must pre-register with the Department of Fish and Wildlife 24 hours prior to deploying gear in this area by one of the three following methods:

- Fax transmission to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1229;
- E-mail to Robert Morgan at Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1206.

(5) It is unlawful for a vessel to use more than 300 pots in the area between Split Rock (47°24.50) and Raft River (47°28.00) shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve from 8:00 a.m. April 3, 2021, until 8:00 a.m. May 1, 2021. Fishers must pre-register with the Department of Fish and Wildlife 24 hours prior to deploying gear in this area by one of the three following methods:

- Fax transmission to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1229;
- E-mail to Robert Morgan at Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1206.

Unless otherwise amended all other provisions of the permanent rule remain in effect

Reviser's note: The unnecessary underscoring in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-45000A Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Coastal. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-450, effective immediately until further notice: it is unlawful to fish for Dungeness crab in Washington coastal waters, the Pacific Ocean, Grays Harbor, Wil-

lapa Bay, or the Columbia River, except as provided in this section:

(1) Open area: The area from the WA/OR border (46°15.00) to the US-Canadian border. For the purposes of this section, the waters of Willapa Bay include the marine waters east of a line connecting 46°44.76 N, 124°05.76 W and 46°38.93 N, 124°04.33 W.

(2) No license or vessel may set gear south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) and Willapa Bay unless they have been issued a valid Oregon vessel inspection certificate dated on or after February 15, 2021 or a Washington vessel inspection certificate dated on or after February 15, 2021 identified with a vessel inspection number that includes the letters "EVS" indicating that evisceration is required for all crab landed by this license or vessel until further notice.

(3) Licenses or vessels issued a valid Washington crab vessel inspection certificate dated on or after February 15, 2021 identified with a vessel inspection number that includes the letters "NOR" may land crab for live, whole cooked or evisceration.

(4) It unlawful for licenses and vessels with a vessel inspection number that includes the letters "NOR" to deploy or operate shellfish pots south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat).

(5) For waters of the Pacific Ocean north of Point Arena, California, it is unlawful for a person to use a vessel to fish in any area where the season opening is delayed due to marine biotoxins for the first 30 days following the opening of the area if the vessel was employed in the coastal crab fishery during the previous 45 days.

(1) The Quinault Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA) is closed to fishing for Dungeness crab starting at 8:00 A.M., April 3, 2021, from the area shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Copalis River (47°08.00) and Split Rock (47°24.50). This area will be closed until further notice. This SSMA is described by the following coordinates:

(a) Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°20.00 W. Lon.

(b) Northwest Corner: 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°32.40 W. Lon.

(c) Southwest Corner: 47°08.00 N. Lat. 124°25.50 W. Lon.

(d) Southeast Corner (Copalis River): 47°08.00 N. Lat. 124°11.20 W. Lon.

(2) The Quileute special management area (SMA) is closed to fishing for Dungeness crab until further notice. The SMA includes the area shoreward of a line approximating the 30-fathom depth curve between Destruction Island and Cape Johnson according to the following points:

(a) Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47°58.00' N. Lat. 124°40.40' W. Lon.

(b) Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. 124°49.00' W. Lon.

(c) Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. 124°40.00' W. Lon.

(d) Southeast Corner (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. 124°24.43' W. Lon.

(3) Effective immediately the Makah special management area (SMA) is open to fishing. The SMA includes the

waters between 48°02.15 N. Lat. and 48°19.50 N. Lat. east of a line connecting those points and approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- (a) Northeast Corner (Tatoosh Island)
- (b) Northwest Corner: 48°19.50' N. Lat. 124°50.45' W. Lon.
- (c) Southwest Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. 124°50.45' W. Lon.
- (d) Southeast Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. 124°41.00' W. Lon.
- (4) It is unlawful to fish for Dungeness crab in the Westport Boat Basin as defined in WAC 220-300-320.
- (5) Unless otherwise amended all other provisions of the permanent rule remain in effect.

Reviser's note: The typographical errors in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appear in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

- WAC 220-340-42000J Commercial crab fishery—Unlawful acts. (21-41)
- WAC 220-340-45000Z Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Coastal. (21-41)

WSR 21-08-054
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-45—Filed April 2, 2021, 4:43 p.m., effective April 2, 2021, 4:43 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to open recreational crabbing seasons in Marine Area 2-2 (Grays Harbor).

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-330-04000Y; and amending WAC 220-330-040.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Based on recent marine toxin test results the Washington department of health has determined that Dungeness crab are safe for human consumption in that portion of Marine Area 2 north of Point Chehalis and Marine Area 2-2 (Grays Harbor) and recommends that sport crab fishing can remain open or reopen. In addition, the Washington department of health recommends that sport crab fishing remain closed in Marine Area 1 and the portion of Marine Area 2 between Point Chehalis and Leadbetter Point

and Marine Area 2-1 (Willapa Bay). There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 2, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-330-04000Z Crab—Areas and seasons
Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-330-040 effective immediately, until further notice, recreational crab seasons in waters of Marine Area 1, 2, 2-1 and 2-2 shall be modified as follows. All other provisions of WAC 220-330-040 not addressed herein remain in effect unless otherwise amended by emergency rule:

(1) Effective immediately until further notice, it is unlawful to fish for Dungeness crab in Marine Area 1, that portion of Marine 2 from Point Chehalis to Leadbetter Point and Marine Area 2-1 (Willapa Bay).

(2) Effective immediately it is unlawful to set, maintain, operate, or possess in those waters listed in subsections (1) of this section, any baited or unbaited shellfish pots or ring nets for any reason.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following section of Washington Administrative code is repealed:

- WAC 220-330-04000Y Crab—Areas and seasons. (20-25)

WSR 21-08-055
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
(Aging and Long-Term Support Administration)
[Filed April 5, 2021, 8:17 a.m., effective April 6, 2021]

Effective Date of Rule: April 6, 2021.

Purpose: The department is extending the amendment of the rules listed below to assure [ensure] nursing homes are not significantly impeded from admitting and caring for residents during the COVID-19 outbreak. These amendments will continue to align state nursing home rules with federal rules that are suspended or amended to help facilitate care during the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal rules were amended to remove the timelines for completing and transmitting resident assessments, and to delay the requirement by thirty days for a preadmission screening and resident review (PASRR) screening prior to admission to a nursing home. Federal rules also amended care-planning timelines, discharge and transfer notice requirements, and requirements that ensure residents can meet in groups. The rules identified below currently require a PASRR screen prior to admission, have timelines for completion of the comprehensive resident assessment and care plan, and have timelines for the transmission of the resident assessment. These rules also establish the right of residents to participate in resident groups and require specific notice and time requirements before a resident discharge or transfer can occur.

The department filed a CR-101 Preproposal statement of inquiry as WSR 20-17-005 on August 5, 2020, to begin the permanent rule-making process. In addition, under the rule development phase of rule making, the department is in discussions about adding language to the rules to explain the circumstances and time periods under which suspension of rules due to COVID[-19] is necessary.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 388-97-0920; and amending WAC 388-97-0120, 388-97-1000, 388-97-1020, 388-97-1915, and 388-97-1975.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 74.42.620.

Other Authority: Chapter 74.34 RCW.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The continued threat of COVID-19 to our most vulnerable populations is significant, especially for those receiving long-term care services in their homes and congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities.

PASRR, resident assessment, and care planning: Current nursing home rules require a PASRR screen, typically performed by hospital staff prior to admission to a nursing home, followed by further evaluation from state agency staff or contractors under certain circumstances. Hospital staff are experiencing an extremely high workload during the pandemic due to the increased number of admissions, coupled with a reduced number of available staff. Additionally, face-to-face evaluation of the transferring resident continues to be restricted in many counties. The PASRR, care-planning and comprehensive assessment amendments will align state nursing home rules with federal rules that were suspended or amended to help facilitate care during the COVID-19 outbreak by shortening the transfer time from hospital to nursing home, and increasing the flexibility for nursing home staff to

be able to prioritize immediate or emergency care needs of incoming residents.

Resident groups: Current rules establish resident rights to participate in resident groups and require the facility to assist with the organization of a group. Extending the amendment of these rules will permit facilities to restrict resident groups, and meets the state and federal recommendations for social distancing and limited gatherings. Extending this amendment also aligns state rules with federal rules that were suspended to accomplish social distancing recommendations.

Transfer and discharge notice: Current nursing home rules regarding discharge and transfer from a nursing home have specific criteria around when transfer or discharge can occur, and specific notice and time period requirements that must be met before a discharge or transfer can occur. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to necessitate that transfer and discharge decisions be made and implemented more quickly than the nursing home rules permit. Extending this amendment would decrease the notice requirements for transfer or discharge, and help expedite infection control processes and maximize the availability of nursing home beds. It would also align state nursing home rules with federal rules that were suspended or amended so facilities could more easily cohort residents to meet infection control goals.

These emergency rules continue to be needed to align state nursing home requirements with suspended or amended federal requirements. Ongoing conversations with stakeholders also support continuation of these emergency rules until a clear timeline for reimplementation, consistent with federal reimplementation, is established.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 5, Repealed 1; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 5, Repealed 1.

Date Adopted: March 25, 2021.

Katherine I. Vasquez
Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 08-20-062, filed 9/24/08, effective 11/1/08)

WAC 388-97-0120 Individual transfer and discharge rights and procedures. (1) The skilled nursing facility and nursing facility must comply with all of the requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 483.10 and § 483.12, and RCW 74.42.450, or successor laws, and the nursing home must comply with all of the requirements of RCW 74.42.450 (1) through (4) and

(7), or successor laws, including the following provisions and must not transfer or discharge any resident unless:

- (a) At the resident's request;
- (b) The transfer or discharge is necessary for the resident's welfare and the resident's needs cannot be met in the facility;
- (c) The transfer or discharge is appropriate because the resident's health has improved enough so the resident no longer needs the services provided by the facility;
- (d) The safety of individuals in the facility is endangered;
- (e) The health of individuals in the facility would otherwise be endangered; or
- (f) The resident has failed, after reasonable and appropriate notice, to pay for a stay at the facility.

(2) The following notice requirements apply if a nursing home/facility initiates the transfer or discharge of a resident. The notice must:

- (a) Include all information required by 42 C.F.R. § 483.12 when given in a nursing facility;
- (b) Be in writing, in language the resident understands;
- (c) Be given to the resident, the resident's surrogate decision maker, if any, the resident's family and to the department;
- (d) Be provided thirty days in advance of a transfer or discharge initiated by the nursing facility, except that the notice may be given as soon as practicable when the facility cannot meet the resident's urgent medical needs, or under the conditions described in (1)(c), (d), and (e) of this section; and
- (e) Be provided fifteen days in advance of a transfer or discharge initiated by the nursing home, unless the transfer is an emergency.

(3) The nursing home must:

- (a) Provide sufficient preparation and orientation to the resident to ensure safe and orderly transfer or discharge from the nursing home;
- (b) Attempt to avoid the transfer or discharge of a resident from the nursing home through the use of reasonable accommodations unless agreed to by the resident and the requirements of WAC 388-97-0080 are met; and
- (c) Develop and implement a bed-hold policy. This policy must be consistent with any bed-hold policy that the department develops.
- (4) The nursing home (~~(must provide the)~~) bed-hold policy (~~(, in written format, to the resident, and a family member, before the resident is transferred or goes on therapeutic leave. At a minimum the policy)~~) must state, at a minimum:

- (a) The number of days, if any, the nursing home will hold a resident's bed pending return from hospitalization or social/therapeutic leave;
- (b) That a medicaid eligible resident, whose hospitalization or social/therapeutic leave exceeds the maximum number of bed-hold days will be readmitted to the first available semi-private bed, provided the resident needs nursing facility services. Social/therapeutic leave is defined under WAC 388-97-0001. The number of days of social/therapeutic leave allowed for medicaid residents and the authorization process is found under WAC 388-97-0160; and
- (c) That a medicaid eligible resident may be charged if he or she requests that a specific bed be held, but may not be

charged a bed-hold fee for the right to return to the first available bed in a semi-private room.

(5) The nursing facility must send a copy of the federally required transfer or discharge notice to:

- (a) The department's home and community services when the nursing home has determined under WAC 388-97-0100, that the medicaid resident's health has improved sufficiently so that the resident no longer needs the services provided by the facility; and
- (b) The department's designated local office when the transfer or discharge is for any of the following reasons:
 - (i) The resident's needs cannot be met in the facility;
 - (ii) The health or safety of individuals in the facility is endangered; or
 - (iii) The resident has failed to pay for, or to have paid under medicare or medicaid, a stay at the facility.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-11-001, filed 5/2/18, effective 6/2/18)

WAC 388-97-1000 Resident assessment. (1) The nursing home must:

- (a) Provide resident care based on a systematic, comprehensive, interdisciplinary assessment, and care planning process in which the resident participates, to the fullest extent possible;
- (b) Conduct initially and periodically a comprehensive, accurate, standardized, reproducible assessment of each resident's functional capacity;
- (c) (~~(At the time)~~) As soon as practicable after each resident is admitted:
 - (i) Have physician's orders for the resident's immediate care; and
 - (ii) Ensure that the resident's immediate care needs are identified in an admission assessment.
- (d) Ensure that the comprehensive assessment of a resident's needs describes the resident's capability to perform daily life functions and significant impairments in functional capacity.
- (2) The comprehensive assessment must include at least the following information:
 - (a) Identification and demographic information;
 - (b) Customary routine;
 - (c) Cognitive patterns;
 - (d) Communication;
 - (e) Vision;
 - (f) Mood and behavior patterns;
 - (g) Psychosocial well-being;
 - (h) Physical functioning and structural problems;
 - (i) Continence;
 - (j) Disease diagnosis and health conditions;
 - (k) Dental and nutritional status;
 - (l) Skin conditions;
 - (m) Activity pursuit;
 - (n) Medications;
 - (o) Special treatments and procedures;
 - (p) Discharge potential;
 - (q) Documentation of summary information regarding the assessment performed; and
 - (r) Documentation of participation in assessment.

(3) ~~((The nursing home must conduct comprehensive assessments:~~

(a) ~~No later than fourteen days after the date of admission;~~

(b) ~~Promptly after a significant change in the resident's physical or mental condition; and~~

(c) ~~In no case less often than once every twelve months.~~

(4)) The nursing home must ensure that:

(a) ~~((Each resident is assessed no less than once every three months, and))~~ As appropriate, the resident's assessment is revised to assure the continued accuracy of the assessment; and

(b) The results of the assessment are used to develop, review and revise the resident's comprehensive plan of care under WAC 388-97-1020.

~~((5))~~ (4) The skilled nursing facility and nursing facility must:

(a) For the required assessment, complete the state approved resident assessment instrument (RAI) for each resident in accordance with federal requirements;

(b) Maintain electronic or paper copies of completed resident assessments in the resident's active medical record for fifteen months; this information must be maintained in a centralized location and be easily and readily accessible;

(c) Place the hard copies of the signature pages in the clinical record of each resident if a facility maintains their RAI data electronically and does not use electronic signatures;

(d) ~~((Assess each resident not less than every three months, using the state approved assessment instrument; and~~

~~(e))~~ Transmit all state and federally required RAI information for each resident to the department

~~(f))~~ in a manner and time period approved by the department

~~(ii) Within fourteen days of completion of any RAI assessment required under this subsection; and~~

~~(iii) Within fourteen days of discharging or admitting a resident for a tracking record)).~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 08-20-062, filed 9/24/08, effective 11/1/08)

WAC 388-97-1020 Comprehensive plan of care. (1)

The nursing home must develop a comprehensive plan of care for each resident that includes measurable objectives and timetables to meet a resident's medical, nursing and mental and psychosocial needs that are identified in the comprehensive assessment.

(2) The comprehensive plan of care must:

(a) Describe the services that are to be furnished to attain or maintain the resident's highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being as required under WAC 388-97-1060;

(b) Describe any services that would otherwise be required, but are not provided due to the resident's exercise of rights, including the right to refuse treatment (refer to WAC 388-97-0300 and 388-97-0260);

(c) ~~((Be developed within seven days after completion of the comprehensive assessment;~~

~~(d))~~ Be prepared by an interdisciplinary team that includes the attending physician, a registered nurse with responsibility for the resident, and other appropriate staff in disciplines as determined by the residents needs;

~~((e))~~ (d) Consist of an ongoing process which includes a meeting if desired by the resident or the resident's representative; and

~~((f))~~ (e) Include the ongoing participation of the resident to the fullest extent possible, the resident's family or the resident's surrogate decision maker.

(3) The nursing home must implement a plan of care to meet the immediate needs of newly admitted residents, prior to the completion of the comprehensive assessment and plan of care.

(4) The nursing home must:

(a) Follow the informed consent process with the resident as specified in WAC 388-97-0260, regarding the interdisciplinary team's plan of care recommendations;

(b) Respect the resident's right to decide plan of care goals and treatment choices, including acceptance or refusal of plan of care recommendations;

(c) Include in the interdisciplinary plan of care process:

(i) Staff members requested by the resident; and

(ii) Direct care staff who work most closely with the resident.

(d) Respect the resident's wishes regarding which individuals, if any, the resident wants to take part in resident plan of care functions;

(e) Provide reasonable advance notice to and reasonably accommodate the resident family members or other individuals the resident wishes to have attend, when scheduling plan of care meeting times; and

(f) Where for practical reasons any individuals significant to the plan of care process, including the resident, are unable to attend plan of care meetings, provide a method for such individuals to give timely input and recommendations.

(5) The nursing home must ensure that each comprehensive plan of care:

(a) Designates the discipline of the individuals responsible for carrying out the program; and

(b) Is reviewed at least quarterly by qualified staff, as part of the ongoing process of monitoring the resident's needs and preferences.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-18-026, filed 8/25/15, effective 9/25/15)

WAC 388-97-1915 PASRR requirements ~~((prior to admission of))~~ **for new residents.** ~~((Prior to every))~~ Within thirty days of admission ~~((of a new resident))~~, the nursing facility must:

(1) Complete a PASRR level I screening, or verify that a PASRR level I screening has been completed~~((, and deny admission until that screening has been completed))~~.

(2) Require a PASRR level II evaluation, or verify that a PASRR level II evaluation has been ~~((completed))~~ requested when the individual's PASRR level I screening indicates that the individual may have serious mental illness and/or intellectual disability or related condition~~((, and deny admission until that evaluation has been completed, unless all three of~~

the following criteria apply and are documented in the PASRR level I screening:

(a) The individual is admitted directly from a hospital after receiving acute inpatient care;

(b) The individual requires nursing facility services for the condition for which he or she received care in the hospital; and

(c) The individual's attending physician has certified that the individual is likely to require fewer than thirty days of nursing facility services).

(3) ~~((Decline to admit any individual whose PASRR level II evaluation determines that he or she does not require nursing facility services or that a nursing facility placement is otherwise inappropriate.~~

(4)) Coordinate with PASRR evaluators to the maximum extent practicable in order to avoid duplicative assessments and effort, and to ensure continuity of care for nursing facility residents with a serious mental illness and/or an intellectual disability or related condition.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-18-026, filed 8/25/15, effective 9/25/15)

WAC 388-97-1975 PASRR requirements after admission of a resident. ~~((Following))~~ After the thirtieth day of a resident's admission, the nursing facility must:

(1) Review all level I screening forms for accuracy. If at any time the facility finds that the previous level I screening was incomplete, erroneous or is no longer accurate, the facility must immediately complete a new screening using the department's standardized level I form, following the directions provided by the department's PASRR program. If the corrected level I screening identifies a possible serious mental illness or intellectual disability or related condition, the facility must notify DDA and/or the mental health PASRR evaluator so a level II evaluation can be conducted.

(2) Record the evidence of the level I screening and level II determinations (and any subsequent changes) in the resident assessment in accordance with the schedule required under WAC 388-97-1000.

(3) Maintain the level I form and the level II evaluation report in the resident's active clinical record.

(4) Immediately complete a level I screening using the department's standardized form if the facility discovers that a resident does not have a level I screening in his or her clinical record, following directions provided by the department's PASRR program. If the level I screening identifies a possible serious mental illness or intellectual disability or related condition, notify the DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator so a level II evaluation can be conducted.

(5) ~~((Notify the DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator when a resident who was admitted on an exempted hospital discharge appears likely to need nursing facility services for more than thirty days, so a level II evaluation can be performed. This notification must occur as soon as the nursing facility anticipates that the resident may require more than 30 days of nursing facility services, and no later than the twenty-fifth day after admission unless good cause is documented for later notification.~~

~~((6)))~~ Notify the DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator when a resident who was admitted with an advance categorical determination appears likely to need nursing facility services for longer than the period specified by DDA and/or the mental health PASRR evaluator, so that a full assessment of the individual's need for specialized services can be performed. This notification must occur as soon as the nursing facility anticipates that the resident will require more than the number of days of nursing facility services authorized for the specific advance categorical determination and no later than five days before expiration of the period (three days for protective services) unless good cause is documented for later notification.

~~((7)))~~ (6) Immediately notify the DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator for a possible resident review when there has been a significant change in the physical or mental condition, as defined in WAC 388-97-1910, of any resident who has been determined to have a serious mental illness or intellectual disability or related condition. Complete a new level I screening for the significant change.

~~((8)))~~ (7) Provide or arrange for the provision of any services recommended by a PASRR level II evaluator that are within the scope of nursing facility services. If the facility believes that the recommended service either cannot or should not be provided, the facility must document the reason(s) for not providing the service and communicate the reason(s) to the level II evaluator.

~~((9)))~~ (8) Immediately complete a new level I screening using the department's standardized form if the facility finds that a resident, not previously determined to have a serious mental illness, develops symptoms of a serious mental illness, and refer the resident to the mental health PASRR evaluator for further evaluation.

~~((10)))~~ (9) Provide services and interventions that complement, reinforce and are consistent with any specialized services recommended by the level II evaluator. The resident's plan of care must specify how the facility will integrate relevant activities to achieve this consistency and the enhancement of the PASRR goals.

~~((11)))~~ (10) Discharge, in accordance with WAC 388-97-0120, any resident with a serious mental illness or intellectual disability or related condition who does not meet nursing facility level of care, unless the resident has continuously resided in the facility for at least thirty months and requires specialized services. The nursing facility must cooperate with DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator as it prepares the resident for a safe and orderly discharge.

REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 388-97-0920 Participation in resident and family groups.

WSR 21-08-060
EMERGENCY RULES
HIGHLINE COLLEGE

[Filed April 5, 2021, 11:35 a.m., effective April 5, 2021, 11:35 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: On May 19, 2020, the Federal Register printed amendments to Title IX regulations (85 F.R. 30575). The new regulations address the grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment and are scheduled to take effect on August 14, 2020. This requires emergency updates to the college's student conduct code to be compliant with federal regulations.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New Supplemental Title IX Student Conduct Procedures; WAC 132I-125-505, 132I-125-515, 132I-125-525, 132I-125-535, 132I-125-545, 132I-125-555, 132I-125-565, 132I-125-575, and 132I-125-585.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Chapter 34.05 RCW; and RCW 28B.50.140(13); 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Highline College is required by the United States Department of Education to comply with the recently adopted Title IX regulations, which took effect on August 14, 2020.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 9, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 9, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 1, 2021.

Aaron Reader
 Vice President
 of Student Services

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES
FOR CASES INVOLVING TITLE IX SEXUAL
HARASSMENT

NEW SECTION

WAC 132I-125-505 Order of precedence. This supplemental procedure applies to allegations of sexual harassment subject to Title IX jurisdiction pursuant to regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education.

See 34 C.F.R. Part 106. To the extent these supplemental hearing procedures conflict with the college's standard disciplinary procedures, WAC 132I-125-010 through 132I-125-300, these supplemental procedures shall take precedence.

NEW SECTION

WAC 132I-125-515 Prohibited conduct under Title IX. Pursuant to RCW 28B.50.140(13) and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, the college may impose disciplinary sanctions against a student who commits, attempts to commit, or aids, abets, incites, encourages, or assists another person to commit, an act(s) of "sexual harassment."

For purposes of this supplemental procedure, "sexual harassment" encompasses the following conduct:

(1) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A college employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the college on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(2) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the college's educational programs or activities, or employment.

(3) **Sexual assault.** Sexual assault includes the following conduct:

(a) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse.** Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

(b) **Nonconsensual sexual contact.** Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(c) **Incest.** Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of eighteen.

(d) **Statutory rape.** Consensual sexual intercourse between someone who is eighteen years of age or older and someone who is under the age of sixteen.

(4) **Domestic violence.** Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.

(5) Dating violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person:

(a) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(b) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship;

(ii) The type of relationship; and

(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(6) Stalking. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

NEW SECTION

WAC 132I-125-525 Title IX jurisdiction. (1) This supplemental procedure applies only if the alleged misconduct:

(a) Occurred in the United States;

(b) Occurred during a college educational program or activity; and

(c) Meets the definition of sexual harassment as that term is defined in this supplemental procedure.

(2) For purposes of this supplemental procedure, an "educational program or activity" is defined as locations, events, or circumstances over which the college exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurred. This definition includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the college.

(3) Proceedings under this supplemental procedure must be dismissed if the decision maker determines that one or all of the requirements of subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section have not been met. Dismissal under this supplemental procedure does not prohibit the college from pursuing other disciplinary action based on allegations that the respondent violated other provisions of the college's student conduct code, chapter 132I-125 WAC.

(4) If the student conduct officer determines the facts in the investigation report are not sufficient to support Title IX jurisdiction and/or pursuit of a Title IX violation, the student conduct officer will issue a notice of dismissal in whole or part to both parties explaining why some or all of the Title IX claims have been dismissed.

NEW SECTION

WAC 132I-125-535 Initiation of discipline. (1) Upon receiving the Title IX investigation report from the Title IX coordinator, the student conduct officer will independently review the report to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to pursue a disciplinary action against the respondent for engaging in prohibited conduct under Title IX.

(2) If the student conduct officer determines that there are sufficient grounds to proceed under these supplemental procedures, the student conduct officer will initiate a Title IX disciplinary proceeding by filing a written disciplinary notice with the chair of the student conduct committee and serving

the notice on the respondent and the complainant, and their respective advisors. The notice must:

(a) Set forth the basis for Title IX jurisdiction;

(b) Identify the alleged Title IX violation(s);

(c) Set forth the facts underlying the allegation(s);

(d) Identify the range of possible sanctions that may be imposed if the respondent is found responsible for the alleged violation(s);

(e) Explain that the parties are entitled to be accompanied by their chosen advisors during the hearing and that:

(i) The advisors will be responsible for questioning all witnesses on the party's behalf;

(ii) An advisor may be an attorney; and

(iii) The college will appoint the party an advisor of the college's choosing at no cost to the party, if the party fails to do so.

(3) Explain that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, a decision of responsibility may be made in their absence.

NEW SECTION

WAC 132I-125-545 Prehearing procedure. (1) Upon receiving the disciplinary notice, the chair of the student conduct committee will send a hearing notice to all parties, in compliance with WAC 132I-125-270. In no event will the hearing date be set less than ten days after the Title IX coordinator provided the final investigation report to the parties.

(2) A party may choose to have an attorney serve as their advisor at the party's own expense. This right will be waived unless, at least five days before the hearing, the attorney files a notice of appearance with the committee chair with copies to all parties and the student conduct officer.

(3) In preparation for the hearing, the parties will have equal access to all evidence gathered by the investigator during the investigation, regardless of whether the college intends to offer the evidence at the hearing.

NEW SECTION

WAC 132I-125-555 Rights of parties. (1) The college's student conduct procedures, WAC 132I-125-200, and this supplemental procedure shall apply equally to all parties.

(2) The college bears the burden of offering and presenting sufficient testimony and evidence to establish that the respondent is responsible for a Title IX violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(3) The respondent will be presumed not responsible until such time as the disciplinary process has been finally resolved.

(4) During the hearing, each party shall be represented by an advisor. The parties are entitled to an advisor of their own choosing and the advisor may be an attorney. If a party does not choose an advisor, then the Title IX coordinator will appoint an advisor of the college's choosing on the party's behalf at no expense to the party.

NEW SECTION

WAC 132I-125-565 Evidence. The introduction and consideration of evidence during the hearing is subject to the following procedures and restrictions:

(1) **Relevance:** The committee chair shall review all questions for relevance and shall explain on the record their reasons for excluding any question based on lack of relevance.

(2) **Relevance** means that information elicited by the question makes facts in dispute more or less likely to be true.

(3) Questions or evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant and must be excluded, unless such question or evidence:

(a) Is asked or offered to prove someone other than the respondent committed the alleged misconduct; or

(b) Concerns specific incidents of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.

(4) **Cross-examination required:** If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination during the live hearing, the committee must not rely on any statement by that party or witness in reaching a determination of responsibility.

(5) **No negative inference:** The committee may not make an inference regarding responsibility solely on a witness's or party's absence from the hearing or refusal to answer questions.

(6) **Privileged evidence:** The committee shall not consider legally privileged information unless the holder has effectively waived the privilege. Privileged information includes, but is not limited to, information protected by the following:

(a) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(b) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;

(c) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;

(d) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;

(e) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and

(f) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

NEW SECTION

WAC 132I-125-575 Initial order. (1) In addition to complying with WAC 132I-125-290, the student conduct committee will be responsible for conferring and drafting an initial order that:

(a) Identifies the allegations of sexual harassment;

(b) Describes the grievance and disciplinary procedures, starting with filing of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility, including notices to parties, interviews with witnesses and parties, site visits, methods used to gather evidence, and hearings held;

(c) Makes findings of fact supporting the determination of responsibility;

(d) Reaches conclusions as to whether the facts establish whether the respondent is responsible for engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX;

(e) Contains a statement of, and rationale for, the committee's determination of responsibility for each allegation;

(f) Describes any disciplinary sanction or conditions imposed against the respondent, if any;

(g) Describes to what extent, if any, complainant is entitled to remedies designed to restore or preserve complainant's

equal access to the college's education programs or activities; and

(h) Describes the process for appealing the initial order to the college president.

(2) The committee chair will serve the initial order on the parties simultaneously.

NEW SECTION

WAC 132I-125-585 Appeals. (1) The parties shall have the right to appeal from the initial order's determination of responsibility and/or dismissal of an allegation(s) of sexual harassment in a formal complaint. The right to appeal will be subject to the same procedures and time frames set forth in WAC 132I-125-300.

(2) The president or their delegate will determine whether the grounds for appeal have merit, provide the rationale for this conclusion, and state whether the disciplinary sanction and condition(s) imposed in the initial order are affirmed, vacated, or amended, and, if amended, set forth any new disciplinary sanction and/or condition(s).

(3) President's office shall serve the final decision on the parties simultaneously.

WSR 21-08-064

EMERGENCY RULES

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

[Filed April 5, 2021, 2:41 p.m., effective April 5, 2021, 2:41 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: The rules are adopted to define how the employment security department will verify that a claimant or an individual living with them has an underlying health condition that is identified as a risk factor of a disease that is the subject of a public health emergency when a claimant applies for unemployment insurance benefits.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: New WAC 192-150-155 and 192-170-015.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 50.12.010, 50.12.040; ESSB 5061, sections 8 and 10, chapter 2, Laws of 2021.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: ESSB 5061 (2021) provides, among other things, good cause to leave work when, during a public health emergency, the claimant was unable to perform their work for the employer from the claimant's home; the claimant is able and available to perform, and can actively seek, suitable work which can be performed for an employer from the claimant's home; and the claimant or another individual residing with the claimant is at higher risk of severe illness or death from the disease that is the subject of the public health emergency because the higher risk individual has an underlying health condition, verified as required by the department by rule, that is identified as a risk factor of a dis-

ease that is the subject of a public health emergency. ESSB 5061, section 10, chapter 2, Laws of 2021. ESSB 5061 (2021) also provides that during the weeks of a public health emergency, an unemployed individual may meet the availability requirements of RCW 50.20.010 (1)(c) if they are able and available to perform, and actively seeking, suitable work which can be performed for an employer from the individual's home; and if the unemployed individual or another individual residing with the unemployed individual is at higher risk of severe illness or death from the disease that is the subject of the public health emergency because the higher risk individual has an underlying condition, verified as required by the department by rule, that is identified as a risk factor for the disease that is the subject of the public health emergency. Section 8, chapter 2, Laws of 2021. The emergency rules clarify how the department will verify underlying health conditions for purposes of RCW 50.20.010 (43)(b)(ii) and 50.20.050 (2)(b)(xii)(C)(II).

ESSB 5061 went into effect on February 8, 2021. In addition, the new good cause reason to quit applies to job separations that occur on or after April 4, 2021. The immediate adoption of rules is necessary so that the department can verify whether claimants are eligible for unemployment benefits under the new laws.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 2, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 2, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 5, 2021.

Dan Zeitlin
Policy Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-150-155 Verification requirement for an underlying health condition under RCW 50.20.050 (2)(b)(xii)(C)(II). (1)(a) An individual who asserts they have good cause to voluntarily quit employment because they or another individual living with them have an underlying health condition that is identified as a risk factor for a disease that is the subject of a public health emergency will need to provide certification from a health care provider.

(b) The certification must include:

(i) The name, address, telephone number, and contact information of the health care provider and type of medicine the health provider is licensed to practice; and

(ii) Information from a health care provider sufficient to establish that the individual or another individual living with

them have an underlying health condition that is identified as a risk factor for a disease that is the subject of a public health emergency.

(c) The department will deny benefits under WAC 192-140-105 if the individual fails to provide the certification.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term "health care provider" has the same meaning as in WAC 192-500-090.

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-170-015 Verification requirement for an underlying health condition under RCW 50.20.010 (3)(b)(ii).

(1)(a) An individual who limits their availability for work because they or another individual living with them have an underlying health condition that is identified as a risk factor for a disease that is the subject of a public health emergency may need to provide certification from a health care provider.

(b) The certification must include:

(i) The name, address, telephone number, and contact information of the health care provider and type of medicine the health provider is licensed to practice; and

(ii) Information from a health care provider sufficient to establish that the individual or another individual living with them have an underlying health condition that is identified as a risk factor for a disease that is the subject of a public health emergency.

(c) The department may require the individual to provide additional documentation or certification to substantiate the underlying health condition if:

(i) Circumstances of the underlying health condition change;

(ii) Information is provided to the department that the employee may no longer have an underlying health condition; or

(iii) Other circumstances cause the department to question the existence or continued existence of the individual's underlying health condition.

(d) The department will deny benefits under WAC 192-140-070 if the individual fails to provide the certification when requested.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term "health care provider" has the same meaning as in WAC 192-500-090.

**WSR 21-08-065
EMERGENCY RULES
HIGHLINE COLLEGE**

[Filed April 5, 2021, 2:54 p.m., effective April 5, 2021, 2:54 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: On May 19, 2020, the Federal Register printed amendments to Title IX regulations (85 F.R. 30575). The new regulations address the grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment and are scheduled to take effect on August 14, 2020. This requires emergency repeal of the college's Title IX policy and procedures to be compliant with federal regulations. We request an extension for the emergency repeal of the existing WAC because the language no longer aligns with the new regulations. The college is cur-

rently completing the process for permanent rule making. Updated Title IX policy and procedures have been adopted locally.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 1321-300-010 [1321-300-010] and 1321-300-020 [1321-300-020].

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Chapter 34.05 RCW; and RCW 28B.50.140(13); 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this Finding: Highline College is required by the United States Department of Education to comply with the recently adopted Title IX regulations, which took effect on August 14, 2020. The college has begun the necessary steps to permanently repeal the Title IX WAC but this process will not be complete by the time the emergency rule expires.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 2; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 1, 2021.

Summer Korst
Executive Director
of Human Resources

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-16-111, filed 8/1/12, effective 9/1/12)

WAC 1321-300-010 Statement of policy. ((The college provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, creed, religion, or status as a veteran of war as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, RCW 49.60.030 and their implementing regulations. Prohibited sex discrimination includes sexual harassment (unwelcome sexual conduct of various types).

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. It occurs in a variety of situations which share a common element: The inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments into the work or learning situation, the creation of relationships of unequal power and/or elements of coercion,

such as requests for sexual favors as a criterion for granting work, study, or grading benefits. Sexual harassment may also involve relationships among peers of repeated sexual advances or demeaning verbal behavior resulting in a harmful effect on a person's ability to study or work in the academic setting. In addition, third parties may submit claims if a sexual relationship unfairly confers preferential treatment to participant(s) in the relationship-)) (1) Highline College recognizes its responsibility to investigate, resolve, implement corrective measures, and monitor the educational environment and workplace to stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination on the basis of sex, as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, and Washington state's law against discrimination, and their implementing regulations. To this end, Highline College has enacted and adopted the Title IX grievance procedure for receiving and investigating sexual harassment allegations arising during education programs and activities. Any individual found responsible for violating Highline College's Title IX policy is subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the Highline College educational programs and activities and/or termination of employment.

(2) Application of this Title IX grievance procedure WAC 1321-300-020 is restricted to allegations of "sexual harassment," as that term is defined in 34 C.F.R. Part 106.30. Nothing in this procedure limits or otherwise restricts Highline College's ability to investigate and pursue discipline based on alleged violations of other federal, state, and local laws, their implementing regulations, and other college policies prohibiting gender discrimination through processes set forth in Highline College's code of student conduct, employment contracts, employee handbooks, and collective bargaining agreements.

(3) Any employee, student, applicant, or visitor who believes that they have been the subject of sexual harassment should report the incident or incidents to Highline College's Title IX coordinator identified below. If the complaint is against that Title IX coordinator, the complainant should report the matter to the president's office for referral to an alternate designee.

(4) Complaints may be submitted in writing or verbally. For complainants who wish to submit a written complaint, a formal complaint form is available online at incident reporting form.

TITLE IX/EEO Coordinator

Title: Title IX Coordinator

Office: Human Resources, Building 99, Room 200

Phone: 206-592-3812

(5) The responsibilities of the Title IX/EEO coordinator or designee include:

(a) Accepting and processing all Title IX reports, referrals, and formal complaints.

(b) Executing and submitting a formal complaint when appropriate and necessary.

(c) Handling requests for confidentiality.

(d) Determining during the grievance procedure:

(i) Whether a formal complaint should be dismissed either in whole or in part, and if so;

(ii) Providing notice to both parties about why dismissal was necessary or desirable; and

(iii) Referring the complaint to the appropriate disciplinary authority for proceedings outside the jurisdiction of Title IX.

(e) Maintaining accurate records of all complaints, reports, and referrals, and retaining investigation files, complaints, reports, and referrals in compliance with the applicable records retention schedules or federal or state law, whichever is longer.

(f) Assigning and overseeing investigations.

(g) Engaging in an interactive process with both parties to identify and provide supportive measures that ensure during the investigation and disciplinary processes that the parties have equitable access to education programs and activities and are protected from further discrimination or retaliation.

(h) Upon completion of an investigation, issuing or overseeing the issuance of a final investigation report to the parties and the appropriate disciplinary authority in compliance with this grievance procedure.

(i) Recommending nondisciplinary corrective measures to stop, remediate, and/or prevent recurrence of discriminatory conduct to disciplinary authorities and other college administrators.

(6) Individuals experiencing harassment or discrimination also have the right to file a formal grievance with government authorities:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
909 First Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98104-1061
www.eeoc.gov

Washington State Human Rights Commission
1511 Third Avenue, Suite 921
Seattle, WA 98101
www.hum.wa.gov

Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
915 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98171-1099
www.ed.gov

(7) In the event that an incident involves alleged misconduct by the Title IX/EEO coordinator, reports should be made directly to the vice president of human resources.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-16-111, filed 8/1/12, effective 9/1/12)

WAC 1321-300-020 Discrimination and sexual harassments complaints—Procedure. ((1) Any student or employee who believes that he or she has been the subject of discrimination or sexual harassment, should report the incident or incidents to the chief human resources officer, the administrator so designated by the college president, hereafter referred to as the CHRO. If the complaint is against that official, the complainant should report the matter to the pres-

ident's office for referral to an alternate designee. The college encourages the timely reporting of any incident(s) of discrimination or sexual harassment.

(2) All reports of incident(s) will be forwarded to the CHRO for coordination and a determination on how to process the complaint.

(3) The student or employee who files a complaint alleging discrimination or sexual harassment (the complainant) may submit a brief written statement of allegations to the CHRO. If the complainant does not submit a written statement, the CHRO shall prepare a statement of facts which is approved by the complainant. That statement will be forwarded as well to the subject of the complaint, who may choose to submit a response.

(4) The CHRO shall appoint a college employee to investigate the complaint. The CHRO shall inform the complainant and respondent(s) of the appointment.

(5) The college representative shall conduct an investigation based upon the written statement submitted by the complainant and, if applicable, respondent(s). If the complainant did not file a written statement, the representative shall conduct an investigation based upon the statement prepared by the CHRO.

(6) The college representative shall conduct a thorough investigation. The investigation shall include, but is not limited to, providing the complainant and the respondent the opportunity to state their positions, interviewing witness, and reviewing relevant documents. The investigation shall be concluded within a reasonable time, normally thirty days.

(7) At the conclusion of the investigation the college representative shall set forth his or her findings and recommendations in writing. The representative shall send a copy of the findings and recommendations to the CHRO.

(8) The CHRO shall consider the findings and recommendations of the representative. The CHRO shall determine whether disciplinary action may be appropriate. If the CHRO so recommends, he or she will consult with the respondent's appointing authority regarding possible personnel action. These options may include voluntary training/counseling, development of a remediation plan, or formal discipline. The CHRO shall advise the complainant and respondent of the college's decision.

(9) If the CHRO and respondent's appointing authority determine that disciplinary actions should be instituted against an employee the applicable provisions of employee rights and responsibilities shall be followed. These provisions include but are not limited to, state and federal constitutional and statutory provisions, rules Washington office of financial management, collective bargaining agreements, and college policies.

(10) If the CHRO determines that disciplinary action should be instituted against a student, the applicable provisions of the college student code shall be followed.

(11) If the CHRO determines that disciplinary action is not appropriate and the complainant disagrees, the complainant may appeal, in writing, to the president.

(12) The procedures regarding complaints of discrimination shall be published and distributed as determined by the president or president's designee. Any person who believes

he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment will be provided a copy of this policy and procedure.) (1) **Purpose.**

Highline College recognizes its responsibility to investigate, resolve, implement corrective measures, and monitor the educational environment and workplace to stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination on the basis of sex, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, and Washington state's law against discrimination, and their implementing regulations. To this end, Highline College has enacted the Highline College Policy XXXX - Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation and adopted the following Title IX grievance procedure for receiving and investigating sexual harassment allegations arising during educational programs and activities. Any individual found responsible for violating the college's Title IX policy is subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the college's educational programs and activities and/or termination of employment.

Application of this Title IX grievance procedure is restricted to allegations of "sexual harassment," as that term is defined in 34 C.F.R. Part 106.30. Nothing in this procedure limits or otherwise restricts the college's ability to investigate and pursue discipline based on alleged violations of other federal, state and local laws, their implementing regulations, and other college policies prohibiting gender discrimination through processes set forth in the college's code of student conduct, employment contracts, discrimination, harassment and retaliation policy, and collective bargaining agreements.

(2) Definitions.

For purposes of this Title IX grievance procedure, the following terms are defined as follows:

(a) **Consent** means knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. For consent to be valid, there must be at the time of the act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening or are disoriented, helpless, asleep or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs. An individual who engages in sexual activity when the individual knows, or should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual conduct.

Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

(b) **Complainant** - An individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

(c) **Respondent** - An individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

(d) **Formal complaint** - A writing submitted by the complainant or signed by the Title IX coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the college conduct an investigation.

(e) **Educational program or activity** includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the college exer-

cised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurred. It also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization officially recognized by the college.

(f) **Grievance procedure** - The process the college uses to initiate, informally resolve, and/or investigate allegations that an employee or student has violated Title IX provisions prohibiting sexual harassment.

(g) **Supportive measures** are nondisciplinary, nonpunitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent regardless of whether the complainant or the Title IX coordinator has filed a formal complaint. Supportive measures restore or preserve a party's access to the college's educational programs and activities without unreasonably burdening the other party, as determined through an interactive process between the Title IX coordinator and the party. Supportive measures include measures designed to protect the safety of all parties and/or the college's educational environment and/or to deter sexual harassment or retaliation. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to: (i) Counseling and other medical assistance; (ii) extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments; (iii) modifications of work or class schedules; (iv) leaves of absence; (v) increased security or monitoring of certain areas of campus; and (vi) imposition of orders prohibiting the parties from initiating contact with one another in housing or work situations at Highline College as well as at college-sponsored events or activities. Determinations about whether to impose a one-way no contact order must be made on a case-by-case basis. If supportive measures are not provided, the Title IX coordinator must document in writing why this was clearly reasonable under the circumstances.

(h) **Summary suspension** means an emergency suspension of a student respondent pending investigation and resolution of disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the procedure and standards set forth in WAC 132I-125-350.

(i) **Sexual harassment** - For purposes of these Title IX grievance procedures, sexual harassment occurs when a respondent engages in the following discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex:

(i) **Quid pro quo harassment.** A college employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the college on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

(ii) **Hostile environment.** Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the college's educational programs or activities or college employment.

(iii) **Sexual assault.** Sexual assault includes the following conduct:

(A) **Nonconsensual sexual intercourse.** Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

(B) Nonconsensual sexual contact. Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

(C) Incest. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of eighteen.

(D) Statutory rape. Consensual intercourse between a person who is eighteen years of age or older, and a person who is under the age of sixteen.

(E) Domestic violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.

(F) Dating violence. Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person:

(I) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(II) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(aa) The length of the relationship;

(bb) The type of relationship; and

(cc) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(G) Stalking. Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

(I) Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or

(II) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

(j) **Title IX administrators** are the Title IX coordinator, Title IX investigators, the student conduct manager, student conduct committee members, deputy Title IX coordinator, deputy safety coordinator, hearing officer, employee disciplinary officer, and college-provided advisors assigned to the parties by the college during Title IX disciplinary proceedings.

(k) **Title IX coordinator** is responsible for processing Title IX complaints and conducting and/or overseeing formal investigations and informal resolution processes under this grievance procedure. Among other things, the Title IX coordinator is responsible for:

(i) Accepting and processing all Title IX reports, referrals, and formal complaints.

(ii) Executing and submitting a formal complaint when appropriate and necessary.

(iii) Handling requests for confidentiality.

(iv) Determining during the grievance procedure:

(A) Whether a formal complaint should be dismissed either in whole or in part, and if so:

(B) Providing notice to both parties about why dismissal was necessary or desirable; and

(C) Referring the complaint to the appropriate disciplinary authority for proceedings outside the jurisdiction of Title IX.

(v) Maintaining accurate records of all complaints, reports, and referrals, and retaining investigation files, complaints, reports, and referrals in compliance with the applicable records retention schedules or federal or state law, whichever is longer.

(vi) Assigning and overseeing investigations.

(vii) Engaging in an interactive process with both parties to identify and provide supportive measures that ensure during the investigation and disciplinary processes that the parties have equitable access to educational programs and activities and are protected from further discrimination or retaliation.

(viii) Upon completion of an investigation, issuing or overseeing the issuance of a final investigation report to the parties and the appropriate disciplinary authority in compliance with this grievance procedure.

(ix) Recommending nondisciplinary corrective measures to stop, remediate, and/or prevent recurrence of discriminatory conduct to disciplinary authorities and other college administrators.

(3) Principles for Title IX grievance procedure.

(a) Respondent shall be presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct unless or until a determination of responsibility is reached after completion of the grievance and disciplinary processes.

(b) Before imposing discipline, the college is responsible for gathering and presenting evidence to a neutral and unbiased decision maker establishing responsibility for a Title IX violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(c) The college shall treat both the complainant and respondent equitably by providing complainant with remedies against respondent who has been found responsible for sexual harassment through application of the institution's Title IX grievance and applicable Title IX disciplinary procedures and by providing respondent with Title IX procedural safeguards contained in this Title IX grievance procedures and in the applicable Title IX disciplinary procedures.

(d) The investigator shall base investigation results on all relevant evidence, including both exculpatory and inculpatory evidence.

(e) Formal and informal resolutions will be pursued within reasonably prompt time frames with allowances for temporary delays and extensions for good cause shown. The Title IX coordinator or designee will respond to reports of sexual harassment within three business days. It is expected that complaints addressed through an informal process will be resolved within ninety days. It is expected that complaints addressed through the formal investigation and hearing process will be resolved in one hundred five days. Grounds for temporary delay include, but are not limited to, breaks in the academic calendar, unusual circumstances where employees are unable to work on campus, weather conditions, a natural disaster, or lack of participation from the complainant or

respondent. Good cause supporting a request for an extension includes, but is not limited to: A college party, a party's advisor or a witness being unavailable, concurrent law enforcement activity, the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities, or unforeseen circumstances causing the Title IX coordinator to be unavailable for more than three business days during the grievance process. Both parties will receive written notice of any temporary delay or extension for good cause with an explanation of why the action was necessary.

(f) A respondent found responsible for engaging in sexual harassment may receive discipline up to and including dismissal from the college. A description of other possible disciplinary sanctions and conditions that may be imposed against students can be found in WAC 132-125-125.

An employee found responsible for sexual harassment may receive discipline up to and including dismissal from employment. A description of possible disciplinary sanctions and conditions that may be imposed against employees can be found at Supplemental Title IX Employee Disciplinary Hearing Procedures, Article 806 of the Highline College Education Association (HCEA) Bargaining Agreement, and Article 27 of the Washington public employees association (WPEA) bargaining agreement.

In proceedings against an employee respondent, the parties may appeal the employee disciplinary decision to the president pursuant to the Supplemental Title IX Employee Disciplinary Procedures.

(g) Title IX administrators may not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that seeks disclosure of privileged communications, unless the privilege has been effectively waived by the holder. This provision applies, but is not limited to, information subject to the following:

(i) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(ii) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;

(iii) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;

(iv) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;

(v) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and

(vi) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

(4) Title IX administrators - Free from bias - Training requirements.

(a) Title IX administrators shall perform their duties free from bias or conflicts.

(b) Title IX administrators shall undergo training on the following topics:

(i) The definition of sexual harassment under these procedures;

(ii) The scope of the college's educational programs and activities;

(iii) How to conduct an investigation;

(iv) How to serve impartially without prejudgment of facts, conflicts of interest or bias;

(v) Use of technology used during any investigation or hearing;

(vi) The relevance of evidence and questions; and

(vii) Effective report writing.

(c) All Title IX administrator training materials shall be available on the college's Title IX web page.

(5) Filing a complaint.

Any employee, student, applicant, or visitor who believes that they have been the subject of sexual harassment should report the incident or incidents to the college's Title IX coordinator identified below. If the complaint is against that Title IX coordinator, the complainant should report the matter to the president's office for referral to an alternate designee.

Complaints may be submitted in writing or verbally. For complainants who wish to submit a written complaint, a formal complaint form is available online at incident reporting form.

Name: Summer Korst

Title: Title IX Coordinator

Office: Human Resources, Building 99, Room 200

Email: skorst@highline.edu

Phone: 206-592-3812

(6) Confidentiality.

(a) The college will seek to protect the privacy of the complainant to the fullest extent possible, consistent with the legal obligation to investigate, take appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action, and comply with the federal and state law, as well as college policies and procedures. Although the college will attempt to honor complainants' requests for confidentiality, it cannot guarantee complete confidentiality. Determinations regarding how to handle requests for confidentiality will be made by the Title IX coordinator.

(b) The Title IX coordinator will inform and attempt to obtain consent from the complainant before commencing an investigation of alleged sexual harassment. If a complainant asks that their name not be revealed to the respondent or that the college not investigate the allegation, the Title IX coordinator will inform the complainant that maintaining confidentiality may limit the college's ability to fully respond to the allegations and that retaliation by the respondent and/or others is prohibited. If the complainant still insists that their name not be disclosed or that the college not investigate, the Title IX coordinator will determine whether the college can honor the request and at the same time maintain a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all members of the college community, including the complainant. Factors to be weighed during this determination may include, but are not limited to:

(i) The seriousness of the alleged sexual harassment;

(ii) The age of the complainant;

(iii) Whether the sexual harassment was perpetrated with a weapon;

(iv) Whether the respondent has a history of committing acts of sexual harassment or violence or has been the subject of other sexual harassment or violence complaints or findings;

(v) Whether the respondent threatened to commit additional acts of sexual harassment or violence against the complainant or others; and

(vi) Whether relevant evidence about the alleged incident can be obtained through other means (e.g., security cameras, other witnesses, physical evidence).

(c) If the college is unable to honor a complainant's request for confidentiality, the Title IX coordinator will notify the complainant of the decision and ensure that complainant's identity is disclosed only to the extent reasonably necessary to effectively conduct and complete the investigation in compliance with this grievance procedure.

(d) If the college decides not to conduct an investigation or take disciplinary action because of a request for confidentiality, the Title IX coordinator will evaluate whether other measures are available to address the circumstances giving rise to the complaint and prevent their recurrence, and implement such measures if reasonably feasible.

(7) Complaint resolution.

The Title IX resolution processes are initiated when the Title IX coordinator's office receives a written complaint alleging that a respondent(s) sexually harassed a complainant and requesting that the college initiate an investigation (a formal complaint). A formal complaint must be either submitted by the complainant or signed by the Title IX coordinator on behalf of the complainant. Formal complaints submitted to the Title IX coordinator may be resolved through either informal or formal resolution processes. The college will not proceed with either resolution process without a formal complaint.

For purposes of this Title IX grievance procedure, the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in a college education program or activity at the time the formal complaint is filed.

(a) Informal resolution.

Under appropriate circumstances and if the impacted and responding parties agree, they may voluntarily pursue informal resolution during the investigation of a concern. Informal resolution is not appropriate when the allegations involve a mandatory reporting situation, an immediate threat to the health, safety or welfare of a member of the college community, or in cases where an employee is alleged to have sexually harassed a student.

If an informal resolution is appropriate, the impacted party and the responding party may explore remedies or resolution through:

(i) Guided conversations or communications conducted by the Title IX coordinator/HRO representative or a mutually agreed upon third party;

(ii) Structured resolution process conducted by a trained mediator; or

(iii) Voluntarily agreed on alterations to either or both of the parties' work or class schedules or student housing arrangements.

If the parties agree to an informal resolution process, the college will commence the process within ten days after the parties agree to this option and conclude within ninety days of beginning that process, subject to reasonable delays and extensions for good cause shown. The informal process is voluntary. Either the impacted or responding party may withdraw from the informal resolution process at any time, at which point the formal investigation process will resume.

If the impacted and responding party voluntarily resolve a report, the college will record the terms of the resolution in a written agreement signed by both parties and provide written notice to both parties that the report has been closed.

(b) Formal resolution.

Formal resolution means that the complainant's allegations of sexual harassment will be subjected to a formal investigation by an impartial and unbiased investigator. The investigator will issue a report of the investigation findings. Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator will submit the final investigation report to the appropriate disciplinary authority to determine whether disciplinary proceedings are warranted.

(8) Emergency removal.

If a student respondent poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of the college community or an immediate threat of significant disruption to college operations, the college's student conduct officer may summarily suspend a respondent pursuant to WAC 132-125-350, pending final resolution of the allegations. Nothing in this grievance procedure prohibits the college from placing nonstudent employees on administrative leave pending final resolution of the allegations.

(9) Investigation notices.

Upon receiving a formal complaint and determining that allegations comport with Title IX claims, the college will provide the parties with the following notices containing the following information:

(a) Notice of formal and informal resolution processes. A description of the college's grievance resolution procedures, including the informal resolution procedure.

(b) The investigator will serve the respondent and the complainant with a notice of investigation in advance of the initial interview with the respondent to allow the respondent sufficient time to prepare a response to the allegations and to inform the complainant that the college has commenced an investigation. The investigation notice will:

(i) Include the identities of the parties (if known), a description of the conduct alleged constituting Title IX sexual harassment, and the time and location of the incident (if known).

(ii) Confirm that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that the college will not make a final determination of responsibility until after the grievance and disciplinary processes have been completed.

(iii) Inform parties that they are both entitled to have an advisor of their own choosing, who may be an attorney.

(iv) Inform parties they have a right to review and inspect evidence.

(v) Inform parties about student conduct code provisions and employment policies that prohibit students and employees from knowingly submitting false information during the grievance and disciplinary processes.

(c) Amended investigation notice. If during the course of the investigation, the college decides to investigate Title IX sexual harassment allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the investigation notice, the college will issue an amended notice of investigation to both parties that includes this additional information.

(d) Interview and meeting notices. Before any interviewing or meeting with a party about Title IX allegations, the college shall provide the party with a written notice identifying the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the interview or meeting with sufficient time, at least five days, for the party to prepare for the interview or meeting.

(10) Investigation process - Dismissal.

(a) Mandatory dismissal - The Title IX coordinator will dismiss the Title IX allegations, if during the course of a formal investigation under the Title IX grievance process, the investigator determines that the alleged misconduct in the formal complaint:

(i) Does not meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, even if proved; or

(ii) Did not occur in the context of a college educational program or activity; or

(iii) Occurred outside the United States.

(b) Discretionary dismissal - The college may dismiss a Title IX claim in whole or in part, if:

(i) The complainant notifies the Title IX coordinator in writing that they would like to withdraw the formal complaint in whole or in part;

(ii) Respondent is no longer enrolled with or employed by the college; or

(iii) Specific circumstances prevent the college from gathering evidence sufficient to complete the investigation of the Title IX allegations in whole or in part.

(c) The Title IX coordinator will provide both parties written notice if Title IX allegations are dismissed with an explanation for the dismissal.

(d) Mandatory or discretionary dismissal of a Title IX claim does not preclude the college from investigating and pursuing discipline based on allegations that a respondent violated other federal or state laws and regulations, college conduct policies, and/or other codes and contractual provisions governing student and employee conduct.

(11) Investigation process - Consolidation of formal complaints.

When multiple sexual harassment allegations by or against different parties arise out of the same facts or circumstances, the college may consolidate the investigation of formal complaints, provided consolidation can be accomplished in compliance with confidentiality protections imposed by the Family Educational Records and Privacy Act (FERPA). This includes instances in which complainant and respondent have lodged formal complaints against one another or when allegations of sexual assault are lodged by a single complainant against multiple respondents, or when multiple complainants lodge sexual assault complaints against single or multiple respondents.

(12) Investigation process - Required procedures.

During the investigation, the investigator:

(a) Will provide the parties with equal opportunity to present relevant statements, and other evidence in the form of fact or expert witnesses and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence.

(b) Will not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or gather and present relevant evidence, except when a no contact order has been imposed based on an individualized and fact specific deter-

mination that a party poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of another party and/or witnesses or when contact with a party and/or witness is prohibited by court order. A college-imposed no contact shall be no broader than is necessary to protect the threatened party or witness and must provide the impacted party or their advisor with alternative means of gathering and presenting relevant evidence from the protected witness and/or party.

(c) Will allow each party to be accompanied by an advisor of their choosing, who may be an attorney, to any grievance related meeting or interview. Advisors' roles during the investigation meetings or interviews will be limited to providing support and advice to the party. Advisors will not represent or otherwise advocate on behalf of the parties during the investigation process. An attorney representing a party must enter a notice of appearance with the Title IX coordinator and the investigator at least five days before the initial interview or meeting they plan to attend, so that the college can secure its own legal representation, if necessary.

(d) The investigator will provide both parties and their respective advisors with an equal opportunity to review the draft investigation report and to inspect and review any evidence obtained during the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint, including inculpatory or exculpatory evidence, regardless of its source, as well as evidence the investigator does not intend to rely in the final investigation report. After disclosure, each party will receive ten days in which to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigation report. If a party fails to submit a written response within ten days, the party will be deemed to have waived their right to submit comments and the investigator will finalize the report without this information.

(e) The investigator will forward the final report to the Title IX coordinator, who distributes the report and evidence to the parties, as well as the disciplinary authority responsible for determining whether pursuing disciplinary action is warranted.

WSR 21-08-066

EMERGENCY RULES

DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-46—Filed April 5, 2021, 4:30 p.m., effective April 7, 2021]

Effective Date of Rule: April 7, 2021.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to open a recreational steelhead fishery at the Ringold Springs Hatchery access area.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-312-06000E; and amending WAC 220-312-060.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of

notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The steelhead fishery in the Hanford Reach was closed for the 2020/2021 fishery as a result of low expected returns. Ringold Springs Hatchery has completed broodstock collection for 2021. Sufficient broodstock has been collected through a combination of volunteer trap operations and surplus adults supplied by Wells Hatchery. A total of three hundred thousand fertilized eggs were needed at Ringold Springs Hatchery this spring to meet the production of one hundred eighty thousand juvenile steelhead scheduled for release in 2022. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 5, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-312-06000K Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Columbia River. Effective April 7 through April 15, 2021, the provisions of WAC 220-312-060 regarding recreational steelhead seasons at the Ringold Springs Hatchery access area, shall be as described below. All other provisions of WAC 220-312-060 not addressed herein remain in effect unless otherwise amended by emergency rule:

From WDFW markers 1/4 mile downstream of the Ringold Wasteway outlet to 1/2 mile upstream of Ringold Springs Hatchery Creek: Steelhead:

(a) Daily limit 2. Steelhead must be both adipose fin clipped and ventral fin clipped to be retained, release all other steelhead.

(b) Bank angling only from the hatchery side of the river only. (Ringold Springs Hatchery access area). Angling from a vessel is prohibited.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following section of Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective April 7, 2021:

WAC 220-312-06000E Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Columbia River. (20-261)

WSR 21-08-067

RECISSION OF EMERGENCY RULES EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

[Filed April 5, 2021, 4:32 p.m., effective April 5, 2020]

On Monday, February 8, 2021, Governor Inslee signed SSB 5061 (2021) which provided multiple updates to the state's unemployment insurance program. With the updates provided in SSB 5061, the employment security department hereby rescinds the following emergency rules, effective April 5, 2021: WAC 192-150-101 Job separations related to COVID-19, adopted on April 9, 2020, as WSR 20-09-057, effective April 9, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the department's rule making, please visit our rule-making web page at <https://www.esd.wa.gov/newsroom/rulemaking> or contact us at rules@esd.wa.gov.

Scott Michael
Legal Services
Coordination Manager

WSR 21-08-073

EMERGENCY RULES DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-47—Filed April 6, 2021, 11:52 a.m., effective May 22, 2021]

Effective Date of Rule: May 22, 2021.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to open game fish seasons in Goose Creek within the city limits of Wilbur.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-312-05000P; and amending WAC 220-312-050.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Opening the fishing season a week early will allow anglers (those described in the fishery rules) to fish within the permitted enclosed portion of Goose Creek containing stocked trout (from a private vendor). This will allow for maximum harvest of stocked fish prior to the required enclosure removal date. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 6, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-312-05000P Eastside—Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-312-050, effective May 22 through May 28, 2021, game fish seasons for Goose Creek, within the city limits of Wilbur shall be modified as follows. All other provisions of WAC 220-312-050 not addressed herein remain in effect unless otherwise amended by emergency rule:

Goose Creek (Lincoln Co.), within the city limits of Wilbur: Game fish open to juvenile anglers, senior anglers, and anglers with a disability who possess a designated harvester companion card only.

REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed effective May 29, 2019:

WAC 220-312-05000P Eastside—Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

WSR 21-08-074
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-48—Filed April 6, 2021, 1:08 p.m., effective April 9, 2021, 11:59 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: April 9, 2021, 11:59 p.m.

Purpose: Amends rules for coastal commercial crab fishery.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: [New WAC 220-340-455; and] repealing WAC 220-340-45500W.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of

notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The provisions of this emergency rule:

(1) Closes Catch Areas Crab Management Region 1 April 9, 2021, due to the projected attainment of quota.

(2) Continues to permit commercial crab harvest in Puget Sound within Region 3-3 until April 15, 2021, per management plan agreement with tribal comanagers.

(3) Maintains the closure of Regions 2 East, 2 West, 3-1, and 3-2.

(4) Maintains current pot limits in Region 3-3.

(5) Closes commercial harvest in Region 3-3 on April 15, 2021, as agreed to by tribal comanagers.

All catch areas within Crab Management Region 1 are closed to commercial harvest on April 9 due to the projected attainment of state share. Catch areas within Region 3-3 will close on April 15, 2021, based on the hard closure date outlined in historical comanagement harvest agreements. In Region 3-3 the available quota is sufficient to accommodate continued commercial harvest. These provisions are in conformity with agreed management plans with applicable tribes. These management plans are entered into as required by court order. The Puget Sound Dungeness crab commercial fishing season is structured to meet harvest allocation objectives negotiated between state and tribal comanagers and outlined in related management plans. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules. Further adjustment of season structure may be made pending updated harvest data.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 6, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-45500X Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Puget Sound. Effective 11:59 p.m. on April 9, 2021, until further notice, the following provisions of WAC 220-340-455 regarding Puget Sound commercial crab fishing seasons are modified as written below, all other provisions of WAC 220-340-455 not addressed herein remain in effect unless otherwise amended by emergency rule:

(1) It is illegal to harvest Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in Crab Management Regions 1, 2 East, 2 West, 3-1, and 3-2.

(2) It is permissible to harvest Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in Region 3-3.

(3) It is unlawful for any person to deploy more than 75 pots per license per buoy tag number in Crab Management Regions 3-3 with the intent of harvesting Dungeness crab for commercial purposes.

(4) All remaining, undeployed buoy tags per license per region must be onboard the designated vessel and available for immediate inspection.

(5) Effective 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2021 until further notice, it is illegal to harvest Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in Crab Management Region 3-3.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed effective 11:59 p.m. April 9, 2021:

WAC 220-340-45500W Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Puget Sound. (21-39)

Reviser's note: The typographical errors in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appear in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

WSR 21-08-084

EMERGENCY RULES

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

[Filed April 7, 2021, 9:05 a.m., effective April 7, 2021, 9:05 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule revision to chapter 392-210 WAC is to allow for the continuation of the Washington honors award program for the 2020-21 school year by adjusting the criteria and process. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, high school students have had limited to no opportunities to satisfy the testing criteria currently outlined in the rule as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT). The emergency amendment allows for additional assessment options. The emergency amendment also revises the selection of students to allow more flexibility for schools and streamline the process for the office of superintendent of public instruction.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 392-210-025, 392-210-030 and 392-210-040; and amending WAC 392-210-015, 392-210-020, 392-210-035, and 392-210-045.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28A.600.070 and 28A.600.080.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is

necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The COVID-19 pandemic and related emergency public health safety measures created inequities for students to meet the eligibility requirements specified in the rules for the Washington honors award. Specifically, the accessibility to SAT and ACT tests sites and locations has been very limited or not available at all. In addition, some institutions of higher education have eliminated testing requirements for admissions, which makes these tests less relevant for college applications. These factors have reduced the number of graduating seniors taking these tests and therefore fewer students eligible for the Washington honors award.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Non-governmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 4, Repealed 3.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 4, Repealed 3.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: April 7, 2021.

Chris P.S. Reykdal
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 06-23-014, filed 11/3/06, effective 12/4/06)

WAC 392-210-015 Criteria for the selection of Washington state honors award students. The Washington state honors award program shall recognize the top ten percent of the students in the state in each year's public and private high school graduating class who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. Outstanding academic achievement shall be determined by the following criteria:

(1) ~~((An academic achievement index based upon a combination of the combined))~~ The office of superintendent of public instruction shall identify the top ten percent of students in the state using the cumulative high school grade point average (calculated as provided in WAC 180-57-055) ~~((#)) including, but not limited to,~~ the academic core subjects of English, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and languages other than English which may include American Indian languages ~~((and the combined verbal and quantitative composite scores on))~~;

(2) For students with a grade point average (GPA) in the top ten percent in the state, high schools shall use at least one of the assessments available for students, which can include

the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) ~~((or)), the American College Test (ACT), the statewide English language arts and mathematics assessments, or local assessments to evaluate students' academic achievement;~~

~~((2) Credits (as defined in WAC 180-51-050) earned in grades nine through twelve in the academic core subjects of English, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and foreign language;))~~

(3) Completion of at least seventy-five percent of the graduation requirements for the high school in which the candidate is enrolled; and

(4) Enrollment in at least three academic core subjects in grade twelve.

~~((In order to be considered for a Washington honors award, students must have taken the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) prior to January 31 of the year of graduation and be enrolled in a participating high school as indicated by the principal on forms provided by the superintendent of public instruction.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 06-23-014, filed 11/3/06, effective 12/4/06)

WAC 392-210-020 ~~((Determination of))~~ Identification of students for the Washington state honors award (academic achievement index). ~~((The superintendent of public instruction shall calculate the academic achievement index based upon an equivalent numeric weighting of the combined high school grade point average in academic core subjects and the combined verbal and quantitative composite scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT). The superintendent of public instruction shall determine the top ten percent of each year's graduating class based upon a ranking of all participating students on the academic achievement index.))~~ All participating high schools shall use the eligibility criteria to identify the qualifying students for the award on or before the date provided by the superintendent of public instruction.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 06-23-014, filed 11/3/06, effective 12/4/06)

WAC 392-210-035 Notification of students eligible for honors award. Commencing with the ninth grade, and each year thereafter, each participating high school shall provide each enrolled student with a copy of the eligibility criteria for the Washington state honors award. ~~((The superintendent of public instruction shall provide schools with a suggested format that may be used to notify students.))~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 06-23-014, filed 11/3/06, effective 12/4/06)

WAC 392-210-045 Washington honors award certificate. The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare annually for each honors award recipient a suitable ~~((printed))~~ certificate which shall describe the purposes of the award, indicate the year in which the award was given, and be signed by the superintendent of public instruction. The certificate for each honors award recipient shall be delivered to the participating high school principal on or before May 30 of

each school year. ~~((Each participating principal shall provide for issuing the certificate to each recipient at the regular high school commencement or other appropriate time prior to high school commencement.))~~

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

WAC 392-210-025 Credits earned in academic core subjects.

WAC 392-210-030 Enrollment in academic core subjects during grade twelve required.

WAC 392-210-040 Notification of Washington honors award recipients.