

# PROCLAMATION

## **A PROCLAMATION Honoring Those Members of Our Community Who Have Battled or Been Lost to COVID-19**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 (SARS-Co-V-2 and all its variants) is an illness caused by a virus that can transmit from person to person and has spread across the world, creating a global pandemic that is having catastrophic effects on human life, our community, and our economy; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments, health departments and public servants have taken bold actions to protect residents, support struggling local economies and find innovative ways to provide services; and

WHEREAS, in response to rapid spread of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders, essential workers have stepped up to provide critical services to help protect our communities and save lives, sacrificing their own health and safety; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-income communities and BIPOC communities, exacerbating inequities already prevalent in our systems that we must address as a nation; and

WHEREAS, public health guidance and policies targeted at prevention such as social distancing, wearing masks in public and staying home help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, prevent illness and lessen the burden on individuals and society; and

WHEREAS, King County vaccination doses near 500,000 with 17% of our population having received 1 vaccine dose and 8% having received full vaccination doses; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms and severity of COVID-19 can vary dramatically by individual and the long-term health implications for survivors is largely unknown, as many survivors suffer with lingering side-effects of the disease long after they no longer test positive; and

WHEREAS, over 500,000 lives have been lost due to COVID-19 across this country; and

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WHEREAS, over 81,000 individuals in King County have tested positive for COVID-19, and over 1,300 individuals in the county have lost their lives due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in King County, communities of color have higher rates of COVID-19 compared to White residents; four to five times higher among Hispanics/Latinx residents and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, two to three times higher among Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native residents, and 23% higher among Asian American residents; and

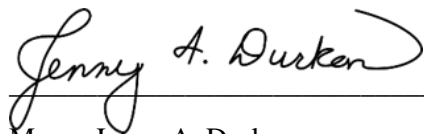
WHEREAS, ensuring equitable access to the limited supply of vaccines means prioritizing people and communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and working through trusted community organizations in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways to build trust and register vulnerable communities for the vaccine; and

WHEREAS, each life lost to COVID-19 mattered and leaves a hole in the hearts of loved ones, family members and the surrounding community;

*NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIM  
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021, TO BE*

## **COVID-19 VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS MEMORIAL DAY**

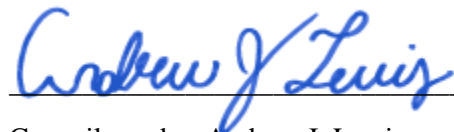
in the City of Seattle, Washington and urge all citizens to remember those who have lost their lives and honor those who are forever marked by COVID and continue to suffer from the impact of this virus.



Mayor Jenny A. Durkan



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales

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Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



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Councilmember Alex Pedersen



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Councilmember Kshama Sawant



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Councilmember Dan Strauss