

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF THURSTON**

Judge M. Brett Buckley

Judge Samuel G. Meyer

Judge Kalo Wilcox

Commissioner Paul Wohl

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In the Matter of Emergency Response) Administrative Order

Order to a Threat to Public Health) 2022-001 1st Amended

) **Effective 13 April 2022**

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WHEREAS, Washington has been in a state of emergency since Governor Inslee's proclamation of 29 February 2020, due to the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee announced on 13 May 2021 the reopening of Washington on 30 June 2021, removing restrictions previously in place through the phased reopening plan "Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery"; and

WHEREAS, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services' has removed recommendations to wear face coverings in all public areas; and

WHEREAS, on 11 March 2022, the Department of Health issued order 20-03.8 Order of the Secretary of Health Amending Order 20-03, taking effect on 12 March 2022, reducing the settings in which face coverings are required; limited to health care settings, long-term care

settings, and correctional and jail facilities; and

WHEREAS, on 12 March 2022, Washington State Department of Labor & Industries updated guidance removing mask requirements in many settings and for most workers; and

WHEREAS, as of 31 March 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified Thurston County community COVID-19 infection level as "Low", advising people may choose to mask at any time; and

WHEREAS, as of 1 April 2022, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services had confirmed 45,399 cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on 17 February 2022, the Thurston County Public Health Officer notified the Court that in-person jury trials may resume 14 March 2022.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the District Court's authority to administer justice and to ensure the safety of the general public, litigants, and court personnel,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

With Respect to Court Operations:

1. Jury trials recommenced on 14 March 2022.
2. The time for trial on all criminal cases remains excluded pursuant to CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8). The Court finds that the backlog caused by COVID-19 is an unavoidable and unforeseen circumstance beyond the control of the Court which necessitates a logical and orderly process of scheduling cases. This finding applies to each case individually by consideration of custody status and the case filing date.
3. To effectuate the continuances of criminal matters, CrRLJ 4.1, time for arraignment in

criminal matters, is suspended. The Court finds that continuances of these criminal matters are required in the administration of justice due to the unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Suspension of CrRLJ 4.1 will remain until the COVID-19 related backlog of proceedings is cleared.

With Respect to the Public's Access to Courtrooms:

4. Face coverings are optional at the District Court building 3 facility and Chandler Court courtroom for District Court.
5. Anyone with a verified recent exposure or positive COVID-19 test may not enter the District Court building 3 or Chandler Court facility. The Court may order anyone to leave who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. If a party to a scheduled case is denied entry or requested to leave, the Court will reschedule the hearing.
6. The District Court courthouse is open to the public. For all proceedings other than jury trials, the following will have priority in attending in-person proceedings at the courthouse: named parties and attorneys to a scheduled case, those under court order to be present, and court staff. Attendance by the general public will be limited to space availability in the lobby and courtrooms while ensuring appropriate distancing guidance is adhered to. The Court will respond to distancing concerns as presented, providing optional attendance through a virtual platform as necessary. The Court will address needs for reasonable accommodations as required.
7. The Court finds that the public health interest in suppressing the transmission of COVID-19 significantly outweighs the public's interest in being physically present in the courtrooms during court proceedings.
8. All court hearings, with the exception of jury trials, will be live streamed to YouTube. Following the held proceedings, live streamed video will be removed from the YouTube

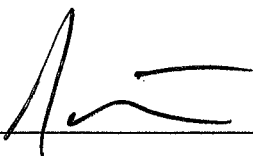
channel. The Court will store and maintain the audio recording of all court proceedings as the formal record of the Court.

9. Notice that all hearings of the Court, with the exception of jury trials, are being live streamed to YouTube are provided on the Thurston County District Court website, Facebook page, through daily Twitter announcements, by a posting on the front door of the District Court building, and by notice to representatives of local print and broadcast media.
10. This order will continue for as long as necessary to accomplish the goals of suppressing COVID-19. In making this determination, the Court will take guidance from federal, state, and local authorities and follow the most protective public health guidance applicable to our jurisdiction.

General Provisions:

11. All other provisions of Washington State Supreme Court Orders are adopted herein by reference.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2022.



M. Brett Buckley, Presiding Judge