

FILED
COUNTY CLERK

2022 JAN -4 PM 3:12

WHATCOM COUNTY
WASHINGTON

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM

CASE NO. 20-2-00001-37

IN THE MATTER OF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC)	
HEALTH RISK DUE TO COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH)	TWENTY-SEVENTH
EMERGENCY)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
)	January 4 th , 2022

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Washington; and on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak across the United States; and on February 24, 2021 President Joe Biden continued the national emergency; and

WHEREAS on August 12, 2021, the Whatcom County Superior Court re-issued a courtroom mask mandate and on August 23, 2021, Governor Inslee re-issued a statewide mask mandate for indoor public spaces in response to the continued and rampant spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to rate Whatcom County at a high level of COVID-19 transmission despite numerous public health measures such as mask wearing, social distancing and the wide availability of vaccines; and

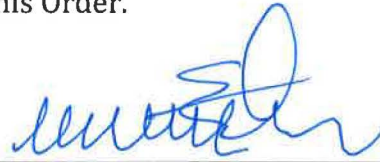
WHEREAS in light of the arrival of a more highly-transmissible "Omicron Variant" of COVID-19, and the continued presence of the "Delta Variant" in our community, and given that Whatcom County Superior Court operates in a high-risk environment which suggests that prior public health measures alone are insufficient at maintaining public safety while conducting jury management and jury trials; and

WHEREAS this Court has the authority to take actions that are reasonably necessary for the efficient administration of justice and the fulfillment of its statutory and constitutional duties:

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and to ensure the safety of courts, personnel, litigants, and the public, during this public health emergency, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. Whatcom County Superior Court will conduct no jury trials earlier than February 14th, 2022.
2. All jury trials continued to a new date as result of this Order as well as the Court's prior Orders shall be excluded when computing time for trial on the basis of the unforeseen and unavoidable continuing COVID-19 pandemic emergency. Continuance or new trial setting orders entered as a consequence of this Order as well as the Court's prior Orders may be considered to incorporate the findings contained herein.
3. This Court's prior Administrative Orders remain in full force and effect to the extent they are not inconsistent with this Order.

DATED this 4th day of January, 2022.



ROBERT E. OLSON, Presiding Judge