

AUG 28 2020

FILED

IN THE LOWER DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF KITTITAS

IN THE MATTER OF) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO A) NO. 2020-06
THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH)

WHEREAS, there remains a declared state of emergency and additional immediate action by the court is required beyond that which was implemented by Administrative Orders No. 2020-01, -02, -03, -04 and -05,

AND WHEREAS, Kittitas County has been moved to Phase 3 of the Safe Start Washington plan established by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee's Proclamation 20-25.3.

AND WHEREAS, the Kittitas County Health Officer has the authority to set health restrictions that are more stringent than the governor's orders,

AND WHEREAS, the Lower Kittitas County District Court previously indicated in Administrative Order County No. 2020-05 that jury trials had been re-suspended due to an order issued by the Kittitas County Health Officer that prohibits public, indoor gatherings of more than 10 people in all settings except for as allowed under Phase 3 religious and faith-based organization requirements, which made it impossible for the gathering of jurors to conduct jury trials.


AND WHEREAS, the Kittitas County Health Officer has recently issued orders, including one that took effect on August 24, 2020, which allows for the courts of Kittitas County to have gatherings of more than 10 people when following the guidance provided by the Washington State Department of Health in a publication titled "COVID-19 and Washington State Courts" which was last updated on August 4, 2020, and can be found [here](#).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1) All prior Administrative Orders and Emergency Rules of this court remain in effect, except that portion of order 2020-05 which resuspended jury trials is now rescinded. The court maintains the suspension of deadlines imposed by the following rules: CrRLJ 3.3 and 4.1, IRLJ 2.2 and 2.6.
- 2) Parties that seek to have their cases scheduled for jury trial may either inform the court of that desire at their next scheduled hearing or by filing an agreed motion and proposed scheduling order after consulting with opposing counsel and the court administrator. All cases set for jury trial will also have a readiness hearing several days prior to the jury trial date in order for the parties to discuss with the court the unique protocols involved in conducting a jury trial while following the State and Local health departments' recommendations for reduction of public health risk due to COVID-19.
- 3) The above takes effect immediately and remains in place until further notice.

Lower Kittitas County District Court remains open and is available by email, telephone or fax. Mail will be received and processed usually by the next business day after receipt. Both criminal and civil intake desks remain open for filings.

DATED this 28 day of August, 2020.



Presiding Judge
Paul R. Sander
Lower Kittitas County District Court