

**KITSAP COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
KITSAP COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

IN RE THE KITSAP COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND THE
PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

No. 2020-29

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
RE – SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS**

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The Kitsap Public Health District¹ reports a surge in COVID-19 cases occurring during and after the Thanksgiving holiday. Though COVID-19 cases were rising before Thanksgiving, the Health District notes Kitsap’s infection rate has increased at an even faster rate. Infections currently stand at their highest point of the pandemic. The Health District has concerns about additional holiday gatherings through this month.

While Kitsap County Superior Court and Kitsap County District Court,² in consultation with the Health District, continue to take appropriate steps to make the Courthouse environment safe, the Courts are convinced that disruptions with jury service are likely based upon the lack of control the Courts have beyond the Kitsap County Courthouse environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

ORDERED that effective today and until further order of the Courts –

1. JURY TRIALS SUSPENDED

All jury trials are suspended until February 1, 2021 in Kitsap County Superior Court and until March 1, 2021 in Kitsap County District Court. All currently scheduled court dates remain calendared. The Courts at that time will hear input from the parties concerning when the new jury trial date will be scheduled.

The increase in the spread of COVID-19 is an unavoidable or unforeseen circumstance affecting the time for trial beyond the control of the Courts or the parties.³

¹ Hereafter “Health District.”

² Hereafter “Courts.”

³ CrR 3.3(e)(8) and CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8).

2. THE COURTHOUSE REMAINS OPEN

The Kitsap County Courthouse remains open to the public.

DATED – December 15, 2020

/s/ Signed Electronically

KEVIN D. HULL

Presiding Judge

Kitsap County Superior Court

/s/ Signed Electronically

JEFFREY J. JAHNS

Presiding Judge

Kitsap County District Court