

SEP 02 2021

ALISON H. SONNTAG

**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. 2021-12**

**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 District<sup>1</sup> reports a surge in COVID-19<sup>2</sup> cases. Currently, infection rates are substantially higher than in December, 2020 when the Kitsap County Superior and District Courts<sup>3</sup> last suspended jury trials. COVID infection rates are at their highest point of the pandemic.<sup>4</sup>

Based upon the rising numbers of infections, the Courts have acted by mandating the wearing of masks and mandating vaccination for all court employees.<sup>5</sup>

The Kitsap County Corrections Center is currently experiencing an unprecedented outbreak and COVID cases among inmates is rising daily. Recently, two Kitsap County jury trials were subject to disruption and created a potential health risk due to COVID.

The Courts continue to take appropriate steps to make the Courthouse environment safe. While disruptions to jury service are likely based upon the lack of control the Courts have beyond the Kitsap County Courthouse environment, the Courts have a duty to protect the community at large and all courthouse employees. Any delay in addressing a risk to anyone entering the courthouse campus is imprudent.

<sup>1</sup> Hereafter “Health District.”

<sup>2</sup> Hereafter, “COVID.”

<sup>3</sup> Hereafter, “Courts.”

<sup>4</sup> See <https://kitsappublichealth.org/communityHealth/Covid-19/CoronaVirus.php>

<sup>5</sup> See Emergency Administrative Order (EAO) 2021-10 and 2021-11, incorporated by reference herein.

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 December 6, 2021 in Kitsap County Superior Court. All jury trials in Kitsap County District Court are suspended until January 3, 2022. Any jury trial that has commenced prior to entry of this order will continue at the discretion of the judicial officer. 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 is an unavoidable or unforeseen circumstance affecting the time for trial beyond the control of the Courts or the parties.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, the time between the entry of this Emergency Administrative Order and the next court date after December 6, 2021 in Kitsap County Superior Court and January 3, 2022 in Kitsap County District Court is an excluded period for Speedy Trial purposes.

### **2. THE COURTHOUSE REMAINS OPEN**

The Kitsap County Courthouse remains open to the public.

DATED – September 2, 2021.

*/s/ Signed Electronically*

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KEVIN D. HULL

Presiding Judge

Kitsap County Superior Court

*/s/ Signed Electronically*

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CLAIRE A. BRADLEY

Presiding Judge

Kitsap County District Court

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<sup>6</sup> CrR 3.3(e)(8) and CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8).