

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

RECEIVED FOR FILING
KITSAP COUNTY CLERK

DAVID T. LEWIS III

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

No. 2022-04

**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 substantial surge in COVID-19² cases. Currently, because of the Omicron variant, infection rates in Kitsap County remain extremely high.³

The Courts continue to take appropriate steps to make the Courthouse environment safe. The Courts have acted by mandating the wearing of masks and mandating vaccination for all court employees.⁴ This Order is being issued following consultation and in accordance with Health District recommendations.

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.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

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

1. JURY TRIALS SUSPENDED

Effective immediately, all jury trials are suspended until February 28, 2022 in Kitsap County Superior Court. All jury trials in Kitsap County District Court remain suspended until March 7, 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.

¹ Hereafter “Health District.”

² Hereafter, “COVID.”

³ See <https://kitsappublichealth.org/communityHealth/Covid-19/CoronaVirus.php>

⁴ See Emergency Administrative Order (EAO) 2021-10 and 2021-11, incorporated by reference herein.

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. CrR 3.3(e)(8) and CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8). Therefore, the time between the entry of this Emergency Administrative Order and the next court date after February 7, 2022 in Kitsap County Superior Court and March 7, 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 – January 31, 2022

/s/ Signed Electronically

KEVIN D. HULL

Presiding Judge

Kitsap County Superior Court

/s/ Signed Electronically

CLAIRE A. BRADLEY

Presiding Judge

Kitsap County District Court