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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. 2021-07  
EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).<sup>1</sup>

The Washington State Supreme Court, Kitsap County Superior Court and Kitsap County District Court have issued multiple Emergency Orders in response to the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>2</sup> Through emergency orders, the Washington State Supreme Court has specifically delegated to local courts the authority to adopt measures necessary to protect the health and safety of their communities, and has directed courts to follow the most protective public health guidance applicable in their jurisdiction.

There has been a marked decline in the number of COVID-19 cases statewide, and current statewide data reflects that 67 percent of Washingtonians 16 years of age and older and 55 percent of the total population have initiated at least one vaccination, and that at least 60 percent of people 16 years of age and older and 50 percent of the total population are fully vaccinated. As a result of this data, Governor Jay Inslee issued the “Washington Ready” Proclamation” which effectively opened up the state of Washington on July 1, 2021.<sup>3</sup>

The Washington State Department of Health<sup>4</sup> and Washington State Department of Labor and Industries have recently updated their COVID-19 safety guidelines and recommend easing certain COVID-19 safety requirements.<sup>5</sup> The Washington State Supreme Court has indicated that local jurisdictions shall create their own safety guidelines and procedures regarding courthouse operations and has plans to rescind their emergency administrative orders regarding general courthouse operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby –

<sup>1</sup> Hereafter, COVID-19.

<sup>2</sup> See Washington State Supreme Court Emergency Orders 25700-B-602 through 25700-B-661, Kitsap County Superior Court Emergency Orders 2020-1 through 2021-3, and Kitsap County District Court Emergency Orders 2020-1 through 2021-3, all incorporated by reference herein.

<sup>3</sup> Proclamation 20-25.14; “Washington Ready.”

<sup>4</sup> Washington Secretary of Health Order Number 20-03.3, effective June 30, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Washington State Labor and Industries Publication F414-164-000, effective June 30, 2021.

Ordered that effective July 6, 2021, and until further Order of the Kitsap County Superior and District Courts –

1. Masks will no longer be required in the public areas of the courthouse (including courtrooms, hallways and bathrooms) for those people who have been fully vaccinated.<sup>6</sup> All non-vaccinated people will be required to wear masks at all times in the public areas of the courthouse, including courtrooms, hallways and bathrooms.
2. Regardless of vaccination status, six-foot social distancing requirements remain in effect in all parts of the courthouse, including the courtrooms, hallways and bathrooms.
3. Members of the public reporting for jury duty will be required to wear a mask in all areas of the courthouse unless they sign an attestation that they have been fully vaccinated. Six-foot social distancing requirements will remain in effect regardless of vaccination status and will continue throughout all trial proceedings.<sup>7</sup>
4. All previous Emergency Administrative Orders not inconsistent with this Order remain in full effect.<sup>8</sup>

The Kitsap County Courthouse remains open.

DATED, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

*/s/ Signed Electronically*

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Judge Kevin D. Hull  
Presiding Judge, Kitsap County Superior Court

*/s/ Signed Electronically*

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Judge Claire A. Bradley  
Presiding Judge, Kitsap County District Court

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<sup>6</sup> A person is “fully vaccinated” against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer, BioNTech, or Moderna), or two weeks after they have received the single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson / Jansen).

<sup>7</sup> Including juror orientation, jury selection, trial and deliberations.

<sup>8</sup> Including but not limited to all previously issued orders regarding court appearances via Zoom Video Conferencing.