

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

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

**No. 2023-01  
EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

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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.

On August 12, 2021, the Kitsap County Health District issued a Directive<sup>3</sup> mandating all persons in public buildings to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status. The Kitsap County Superior and District Courts issued Emergency Administrative Order 2021-10 in conformity with the Kitsap Health District’s Directive.

On August 18, 2021, the Washington State Supreme Court issued Emergency Order 25700-B-669, which mandated that all Supreme Court employees be fully vaccinated by November 1, 2021; and, “strongly encouraged [all other courts, agencies, and entities in the judicial branch, including the Washington State Bar Association, the Office of Public Defense and the Office of Civil Legal Aid] to adopt and implement similar vaccination requirements for their Workers as defined above.”<sup>4</sup>

On August 26, 2021, the Kitsap County Superior Court and Kitsap County District Court, guided in principle and in law by the Washington Supreme Court, and acting under the authority of Washington General Rule (GR) 29 which imposes a duty on presiding judges to maintain and control working conditions for their employees, issued Emergency Administrative Order 2021-11 prohibiting any Worker from engaging in work for the Supreme Court after November 1, 2021 if the Worker was

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

<sup>2</sup> See Washington State Supreme Court Emergency Orders 25700-B-602 through 25700-B-669, Kitsap County Superior Court Emergency Orders 2020-1 through 2021-10, and Kitsap County District Court Emergency Orders 2020-1 through 2021-10, all incorporated by reference herein.

<sup>3</sup> Attached and incorporated by reference herein.

<sup>4</sup> Emphasis added.

not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, subject to established exemptions.

On May 4, 2023, the Washington State Supreme Court issued Order 25700-B-701 which reads:

“The vaccination requirements for Supreme Court workers, the directive to the State Court Administrator to adopt and implement similar requirements for Administrative Office of the Court workers, and the strong encouragement to all other courts, agencies, and entities in the judicial branch to adopt and implement similar requirements for their workers are rescinded and Order 25700-B-669 is terminated effective at 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2023.”

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court’s authority to administer justice and to ensure the safety of courts, personnel, litigants, and the public, during this public health emergency, it is hereby ORDERED:

The vaccination requirements for the Kitsap County Superior Court and Kitsap County District Court are rescinded and Order 2021-11 is terminated effective at 11:59 p.m. on May 19, 2023.

DATED this 19th day of May, 2023.

*/s/ Signed Electronically*

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Judge Jennifer A. Forbes  
Presiding Judge, Kitsap County Superior Court

*/s/ Signed Electronically*

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