

March 11, 2020

A Message from the Kitsap County Superior, Juvenile and District Courts

In recent weeks more information has become publicly known about the novel coronavirus outbreak. Please know that Kitsap County Superior and District Court leadership has been vigilant, regularly consulting the recommendations of local and State public health officials regarding impacts in Kitsap County. Thus far we have maintained regular court operations, balancing the daily completion of the Courts' missions with public health concerns.

As court organizations on the I-5 corridor rollout and publish new service restrictions, it is our intent to continue regular court operations until such time that doing so conflicts with the recommendations of the Kitsap County Public Health Department.

We recognize that you, your clients, potential jurors and others may find yourselves characterized in a high-risk category that increases your susceptibility to COVID-19. Higher risk individuals (criteria set forth below) may wish to adhere to stricter social distancing recommendations:

- You have a chronic underlying health condition such as heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes;
- You are 60 years old, or older;
- You have a weakened immune system;
- You are pregnant; and/or,
- You are sick or recently have had contact with someone who is sick.

Court leaders are aligned with the goal of minimizing the spread of this virus. In this regard, the Courts understand that in the exercise of your individual judgments, you may wish to continue, postpone, or strike non-essential/non-mandatory hearings scheduled over the coming weeks. Please know that the Courts are open and receptive to your individual decisions and ask that you make advance arrangements and necessary notifications to ensure daily judicial resources are allocated appropriately.

We will continue to regularly consult the recommendations of the Kitsap County Health Department and assess the Courts' abilities to maintain regular operations. Information regarding restrictions or service reductions will be made available as soon as they are determined.

Thank you for your understanding, communication and professional service as we navigate these challenging times.

Yours,

Kevin Hull, Presiding Judge

Kitsap County Superior Court

Jeffrey Jahns, Presiding Judge

Kitsap County District Court