

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR YAKIMA COUNTY

6 In re:) GENERAL ORDER NO.
7)
8 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION)
9 SUPPLEMENTING THE SUPREME) GR21
COURT ORDER RELATING TO)
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH)
EMERGENCY)
10)
11)

Whereas, the Washington State Supreme Court has issued multiple statewide orders requiring state courts to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Whereas Yakima County District Court entered its own order on June 11, 2020 that ordered that matters will be stricken unless the parties notify the court at least one day prior to the scheduled matter that they can proceed virtually, telephonically or in person with proper social distancing following public health measures; and

Whereas, Yakima County District Court desires to supplement said orders to give clear direction to the public, litigants, attorneys and court staff how the Supreme Court order shall be implemented in Yakima County and to clarify and extend its own order so that all understand that the wearing of face coverings must be worn to follow said public health measures; and

1 Whereas, Yakima County District Court has consulted with the Yakima County
2 Health Department concerning the current status of the COVID-19 virus as well as

3 recommendations from the Health Department and the Center for Disease Control
4 concerning attempts to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus; and

5 Whereas, Yakima County remains a COVID-19 hotspot surpassing 6900
6 confirmed cases and 132 deaths. Yakima's main hospital has exceeded its capacity.
7 Yakima County's is currently reporting high daily rates of COVID-19 and has the
8 highest rate of infections in the State. Yakima County remains in phase 1 of the
9 Governor's reopening plan and the local Health District has issued a directive urging its
10 citizens to wear face coverings. The Secretary of Health has mandated face coverings
11 statewide and Governor Inslee has proclaimed that no person may appear in a public
12 place or business without a face covering in Yakima County. Yakima County District
13 Court has had to limit its operations and at times close its Grandview Courthouse due to
14 COVID-19 exposure and illness; and

15 Whereas, the Yakima County District Court deems said supplemental order does
16 not conflict with the Supreme Court Order and is warranted to address the current state
17 of emergency within Yakima County.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and
19 to ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, and the public,

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22 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

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1. The June 11, 2020, Yakima County District Court Order is hereby extended.
2. All persons must wear masks or other appropriate facial covering of the mouth and nose when entering or remaining in a Yakima County District Court location unless they have a precluding condition in accordance with the public health guidelines. All persons shall strictly adhere to all directions and markings to ensure social distancing. All persons who enter any district court courtroom must maintain six (6) feet of distance between themselves and anyone who is not a member of their household. The number of persons allowed into a courtroom at any one time shall be limited. The courtrooms are marked to indicate allowable seating and places to stand when moving about the courtroom. Anyone, including attorneys, failing to strictly adhere to the social distancing provisions of this Order may be asked to leave, or will be removed from, the courtroom.
3. A judicial officer may allow or order individuals actively participating in a court proceeding to remove their face coverings, if the judicial officer deems it can be done safely and is necessary to facilitate clear communication and due process.
4. Any person who is sick or in quarantine may not enter into court areas.
5. This Order shall be reviewed on a weekly basis and may be modified as necessary to address the ongoing state of emergency.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2020.

**Brian K. Sanderson, Presiding Judge
Yakima County District Court**