

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY THE COURT
TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY COVID-19
RE:

Cessation of Jury Trials until November 1, 2021

Temporary Administrative Order

No. 2021 - 07

WHEREAS the state of emergency declared by the Governor of this State and resulting from the current COVID-19 pandemic, as described in this Court's previous Administrative orders on the subject, continues; and

WHEREAS the Center for Disease Control (CDC) now rates Whatcom County at a high level of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS the Whatcom County Health Department reports that COVID-19 disease activity is "once again on the rise within Whatcom County . . . with an average number of new cases per day similar to what we saw during the winter peak in January," see, *Whatcom County COVID-19 Data Update for 9/14/2021*, <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3427/COVID-19-Data#AdWCDChTs>; and

WHEREAS in the same report the Health Department states, "[t]he 7-day rate for COVID-19 hospitalizations has been increasing since July 4 and hit a high of 10.5 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents," and "[t]hat rate nearly ties the second-highest hospitalization rate of the pandemic;" and

WHEREAS this court has the authority to take actions that are reasonably necessary for the efficient administration of justice, the fulfillment of its statutory and constitutional duties, and compliance with the orders/directives of the Washington State Supreme Court;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and take actions to ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, public, and jurors during this public health emergency, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. Whatcom County District Court will conduct no jury trials until November 1, 2021.
2. All jury trials continued to a new date as result of this Order will be on the basis of the unforeseen and unavoidable continuing COVID-19 pandemic emergency and continuance or new trial setting orders may be considered to incorporate the findings contained herein by reference.

The provisions of the Court's previous Temporary Administrative Orders not in conflict with the above provisions are not affected by this order.

DATED this 16 day of September, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MSE', is written above a horizontal line.

Matthew S. Elich, Presiding Judge