

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WASHINGTON
FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM

IN THE MATTER OF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC)	TEMPORARY
HEALTH RISK DUE TO COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
EMERGENCY)	
)	No. 2021-08

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Washington; and on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak across the United States; and on February 24, 2021 President Joe Biden continued the national emergency; and

WHEREAS on August 23, 2021, Governor Inslee re-issued a statewide mask mandate for indoor public spaces in response to the continued and rampant spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to rate Whatcom County at a high level of COVID-19 transmission despite numerous public health measures such as mask wearing and social distancing; and

WHEREAS in light of the arrival of the more highly-transmissible “Delta Variant” of COVID-19 in our community, and given that Whatcom County District Court operates in a high risk environment which suggests that prior public health measures alone are insufficient at maintaining public safety while conducting jury management and jury trials; and

WHEREAS this court has the authority to take actions that are reasonably necessary for the efficient administration of justice and the fulfillment of its statutory and constitutional duties:

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:

1. Whatcom County District Court will conduct no jury trial earlier than November 1, 2021.
2. All jury trials continued to a new date as result of this Order as well as the Court's prior Orders shall be excluded when computing time for trial on the basis of the unforeseen and unavoidable continuing COVID-19 pandemic emergency. Continuance or new trial setting orders entered as a consequence of this Order as well as the Court's prior Orders may be considered to incorporate the findings contained herein by reference.
3. This Court's prior Administrative Orders remain in full force and effect to the extent they are not inconsistent with this Order.

DATED this 30th day of September, 2021.



MATT ELICH, Presiding Judge