

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT SERVING
CITY OF LAKEWOOD
CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE
TOWN OF STEILACOOM
CITY OF DUPONT

IN THE MATTER OF) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
Emergency Response to Public Health Threat) NO. 21-02
(Coronavirus/COVID-19))

This matter comes before the Court again on the Covid-19 public health emergency in Washington State. The Lakewood Municipal Court incorporates by reference below portions of Pierce County Superior Court Emergency Order #21-01 Public Health Emergency Order Regarding Suspension of Jury Trials and specifically finds that:

1. Because the current status of the COVID-19 epidemic was articulated in the most recent letter to Superior Court Judges by Justice Stephens dated November 20, 2020 and reads in part:

I know we are all disappointed and distressed by the dramatic rise in COVID-19 activity in our state. See Covid-19 Activity Intensifying Across Washington State. The overall increase in COVID-19 cases is especially alarming as we head into the winter months and respiratory illness season. The restrictions on social and business activities announced by Governor Inslee earlier this week underscore the need to take dramatic steps to protect public health and safety at this critical time. See COVID-19 Guidance. We are at a critical moment not only because the virus is surging but also because we are on the cusp of having a viable vaccine and more available rapid testing. We can see brighter days ahead and must not lose our focus and our resolve to do our part in reducing transmissions and saving lives; and,

2. Because Pierce County has witnessed a surge in COVID-19 transmission consistent with the activity noted by Justice Stephens; therefor,
3. Because January 11, 2021, Governor Inslee signed the *Healthy Washington – Roadmap To Recovery* Proclamation 20-25.12 that declared that a State of Emergency continues to exist and extended all prohibitions previously enacted

regarding health and safety measures to include restrictions on business and activities that promote gatherings of people,

4. Because the most recent *Situation Report* from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and Pierce County Emergency Management (Report #219) noted that the rolling average of positive COVID-19 testing is higher as of January 12, 2021, than it was November 23 2020, when Jury trials were suspended for the second time.

IT IS HEREBY ORDRED that:

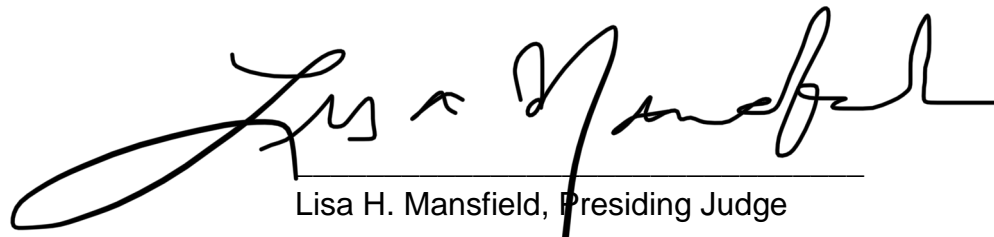
All in-person criminal and civil jury trials, set to begin on or after February 1, 2021, are suspended until at least March 1, 2021.

A continuance of criminal jury trials is required in the administration of justice. Based upon the Court's finding that the serious danger posed by COVID-19 is good cause to continue criminal jury trials, and constitutes an unavoidable circumstance under CrRLJ 3.3 (e)(8), the time between the date of this order and the date of the next scheduled trial date are EXCLUDED when calculating time for trial. CrRLJ 3.3(e)(3).

If necessary to make clear that there is a basis for this Lakewood Municipal Court Emergency Order, the Court hereby incorporates into this emergency order the Supreme Court orders in response to the COVID-19 health crisis as well as any other Supreme Court order promulgated in response to COVID-19, together with any relevant Proclamation by Governor Inslee.

Notices for future dates for all cases delayed by this order will be mailed to the parties via U.S. mail. Any party needing to update a mailing address should contact the Court by email at citycourt@cityoflakewood.us, by fax at 253-512-2267 or by phone at 253-512-2258.

DATED this 1st day of February, 2021.



Lisa H. Mansfield, Presiding Judge