

**EVERETT MUNICIPAL COURT
SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE**

IN RE:

CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES XIV

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER NO. 2020-21**

This Court finds that there is a public health emergency caused by the spread of Coronavirus/COVID-19 in all Washington counties, including Snohomish County, and that an order to suspend certain court rules and to take further actions concerning court operations is needed to promote the safety of court employees, court participants and the general public; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens (“Chief Justice Stephens”) issued Order No. 25700-B-602 in response to this public health emergency that affects the operation of trial courts in Washington, granting emergency authority to this Court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, as warranted to address this emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee ordered the closure of all schools in the State and, on March 16, 2020, ordered closure of all bars, restaurants and clubs in the State, in addition to limiting gatherings to no more than 50 people;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, Chief Justice Stephens issued Order No. 25700-B-606, requiring this Court to adopt additional measures to address this public health emergency and giving this Court authority to adopt more restrictive measures, as needed;

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, Governor Inslee extended his statewide mandatory Stay Home order through May 4, 2020;

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020, Chief Justice Stephens issued a Second Revised and Extended Order Regarding Court Operations, giving further guidance to this Court concerning

expansion of suspended operations and extending this Court's authority to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, as warranted to address this emergency;

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, Governor Inslee again extended his statewide mandatory Stay Home order through May 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2020, Chief Justice Stephens issued an Amended Third Revised and Extended Order Regarding Court Operations, which again authorized courts in Washington to adopt measures to protect health and safety during this public health emergency;

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee's statewide Stay Home, Stay Healthy order expired at 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2020 and the Governor immediately instituted a statewide Safe Start order requiring significant continued phase-specific public safety restrictions;

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2020, Snohomish County was approved to move to Phase Two of the Governor's Safe Start protocol, allowing some easing of public health restrictions, but also continuing restrictions on public gatherings and requiring other continued significant measures to ensure public safety, including a requirement for safe distancing in all indoor and outdoor settings;

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2020, Chief Justice Stephens issued Order No. 25700-B-646, its Fourth Revised and Extended Order Regarding Court Operations, stating that in all court operations, courts should follow the most protective public health guidance applicable in their jurisdiction, and that individual courts have the authority to adopt more restrictive measures to protect health and safety when necessary and as circumstances warrant;

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2020, in response to rapidly increasing statewide transmission of COVID-19, Governor Inslee re-imposed and/or expanded public health restrictions limiting indoor gatherings, prohibiting certain activities, and closing certain businesses, while again recognizing that Courts provide essential services;

WHEREAS, on December 30, 2020, Governor Inslee extended public health restrictions, effective immediately, due to a COVID-19 outbreak surge that he found, based on evidence of how the virus is spread and risk factors that increase the risk for person-to-person COVID-19

transmission, puts Washington's people, health system and economy in as dangerous a position as was faced in March 2020;

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee's December 30, 2020 extension of public health restrictions has an expiration date of 11:59 p.m. January 11, 2021 unless otherwise extended;

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2020 this Court was notified that Snohomish County Superior Court will not resume jury trials any sooner than the week of January 25, 2021, with that date subject to change, thus preventing Everett Municipal Court from resuming jury trials before January 25, 2021, as jurors for trials in this court are procured via Snohomish County Superior Court jury operations;

WHEREAS, public health dictates that this Court take certain measures and pursuant to the authority of Washington Supreme Court Orders described herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2020, UNTIL THIS ORDER IS RESCINDED OR MODIFIED, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. General Administrative Orders 2020-16 and 2020-19 are suspended through January 29, 2021.
2. All terms of General Administrative Order 2020-20 shall be extended through January 29, 2021.
3. The Jury Terms of January 11-12, 2021 and January 25-26, 2021 are hereby cancelled.
4. In-custody readiness hearings will continue to be heard as currently set, via video conference between Courtroom 1 and the Snohomish County Jail.

DATED this 31st day of December 2020.



**HON. AMY KAESTNER
PRESIDING JUDGE**