

**IN THE UPPER KITTITAS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY	)	EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO PUBLIC	)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
HEALTH.	)	
	)	Dated March 16, 2020

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in county of Kittitas, State of Washington.

1. On February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID – 19).
2. On March 4, 2020 Chief Justice Debra Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority upon all Washington courts to adopt, modify, and/or suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency issued an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operations of trial courts in Washington State; and
3. On March 6, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners for Kittitas County declared a state of emergency for Kittitas County in regard to COVID-19;
4. On March 11, 2020, Governor Inslee imposed additional restrictions prohibiting gatherings of more than 250 people within King, Snohomish, and Pierce County due to the danger of continued spread of the virus and the increasing danger the virus presents to the health care system in the region;
5. On March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee mandated closure of all Washington schools from March 17 through at least April 24, 2020 and extended a restriction on social gatherings of more than 250 people throughout the entire State of Washington;
6. On March 15, 2020, Governor Inslee announced temporary closure of restaurants, bars, gyms, movie theaters, and banned any social gatherings over 50 people throughout the entire State of Washington.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that effective Monday, March 16, 2020:

1. All civil, infraction, and criminal matters scheduled before this court, including jury trials are CONTINUED pending further order of the Court;
2. With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the above public health recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the time period of the continuances implemented by the Administrative Order will be excluded under CrRLJ 3.3 Time for Trial Rule, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the continuances outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to CrRLJ 3.3;
3. For all hearings currently pending and for hearings on new cases filed during the pendency of this order that are delayed by effect of this order, the delay/continuance shall constitute and be excluded period for purposes of Speedy Trial, CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, IRLJ 2.2, IRLJ 2.4, IRLJ 2.6, and any other applicable court rule;
4. Case-by-case exceptions to the continuances provided herein may be ordered for non-jury matters at the discretion of the Court after consultation with counsel;
5. This Order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil, infraction, or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument;
6. For all hearings not continued by effect of this rule, telephonic hearings will be permitted to the greatest extent possible in order to encourage social distancing as recommended by both the Centers for Disease Control and local public health officials.
7. The Court reserves the right to maintain or schedule arraignments, pretrial hearings, or review/revocation hearings during the pendency of this order in cases involving threats to public safety, including but not limited to domestic violence offenses and driving while under the influence/physical control.

The Upper Kittitas County District Court remains open. Staff in the Clerk's Office will be available by telephone, email or fax. Mail will be received and processed, and intake desks remain open for filings. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing Court services while following applicable public health guidelines.

This order may be modified consistent with the Court's continual assessment of the needs of the community as well as the recommendations of public health officials.

DATED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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DARREL R ELLIS  
Presiding Judge