

FILED
COUNTY CLERK

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM

2020 MAY 8 P 3:41

WHATCOM COUNTY
WASHINGTON

BY _____

IN THE MATTER OF RESPONSE TO
PUBLIC HEALTH RISK DUE TO COVID-
19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

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SIXTH
ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER
MAY 8, 2020

NO.20-2-00001-37

WHEREAS the COVID-19 virus continues to be prevalent in the community and the country, and poses serious risk to the health of those it infects; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Supreme Court has authorized the Courts to conduct certain hearings and proceedings in person, provided that public health measures are enforced strictly and at all times; and

WHEREAS the public health measures required by the Supreme Court include strict observance of social distancing; the wearing of masks by all persons present; and the frequent and careful cleaning of all surfaces, items and objects to which persons doing business with the Court may be exposed; and

WHEREAS the safety and security of all people present in the courthouse, including court employees, county employees and the public, requires observance of the public health measures described above;

WHEREAS the wearing of a mask or face covering greatly reduces the risk of the wearer's passing the virus to others; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

In order to reduce the risk of virus exposure for all people present in the courthouse, the Court orders that the following public health measures be observed by everyone in the courthouse. These measures are necessary to reduce the risk of exposure for all people present in the courthouse – courthouse employees, the person entering the courthouse, and members of the public.

1. In public areas of the courthouse, everyone must wear an appropriate mask or face covering. Public areas include courtrooms, reception and other public areas of agency offices, courtrooms, hallways and corridors, rest rooms, and any other area in

which members of the public are permitted. An appropriate mask or face covering is one that covers the wearer's nose and mouth with fabric or filter material, preventing the circulation of air, particles and other discharges.

2. Effective May 11, 2020, no person may enter the courthouse without an appropriate mask or face covering.
3. People using the courthouse must remain at least six feet away from all other persons, at all times they are present in the courthouse. (People who are related or living together are not required to maintain that distance from each other.) People using courthouse facilities or areas that are marked to indicate required distances between people must observe the markings.
4. All people using the courthouse must wash their hands before entering the courthouse and are encouraged to wash hands frequently while present in the courthouse. Handwashing may be done at handwashing stations placed throughout the courthouse, or in courthouse rest rooms.
5. People using the courthouse are encouraged to use their own masks or face coverings whenever possible. Face covering materials will be provided to people who do not have a mask or face covering.

The Court recognizes that these measures may be unpleasant or inconvenient for some people, but orders them because they are necessary to minimize the risk to public health posed by the COVID19 virus.

The Court thanks all courthouse users for their understanding, and shares the hope that Whatcom County's people will continue to work together to maintain our collective health and safety.

DATED this 8th day of May, 2020.



Deborra Garrett, Presiding Judge