

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SPOKANE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE)
BY SPOKANE COUNTY DISTRICT)
COURT TO (COVID-19 AND COVID-19)
DELTA VARIANT))
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NO. 15 AMENDMENT TO
EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 1

**EMERGENCY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

WHEREAS, of August 13th, 2021, COVID-19 and/or the Delta variant of COVID-19 continue to increase new cases in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, of August 13th, 2021, fully vaccinated people who do become infected with the Delta variant can transmit the virus to others; and

WHEREAS, of August 13th, 2021, the rate of acute care beds occupied by patients is over 80% for Eastern Washington; and

WHEREAS, health officials representing 35 local Washington health jurisdictions issued a joint statement recommending everyone older than 2 years old to keep masks on in public spaces; and

WHEREAS, of August 13th, 2021, the Spokane Regional Health District states on their public website “On May 20, 2020, the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) Health Officer issued a local health directive strongly recommending that Spokane County residents wear face coverings. This directive is still in place.” (highlighted); and

WHEREAS, on August 10th, 2021, facing an onslaught of new COVID-19 patients, Providence Health Care officials announced that all non-emergency surgeries and procedures will be halted at Sacred Heart Medical Center and Holy Family Hospitals effective immediately; and

WHEREAS, of August 13, 2021, hospitalizations have tripled in Spokane County in a month and doubled in the Panhandle of Idaho in the past two weeks; and

WHEREAS, on July 27th, 2021, the Center for Disease Control (C.D.C) added a recommendation to their public website that fully vaccinated people wear masks in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmissions; and

WHEREAS, on July 30th, Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice, Steve Gonzalez, informed Presiding Judges that while there are “baseline recommendations” related to masking requirements “nothing prevents you as presiding judge and court administrators from enacting more enhanced restrictions depending upon your local public health metrics or other local conditions”; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington and specifically Spokane County has experienced a surge in new COVID 19 cases over the past month; and

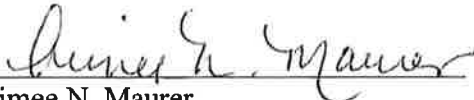
WHEREAS, this Court issued its Emergency Order No. 1 and Amendments to that Order Nos. 1-14,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED EFFECTIVE MONDAY, AUGUST 16TH, 2021 UNTIL FURTHER ORDER OF THE COURT:

1. Any person who is physically ill or in quarantine shall not enter the Courthouse;
2. Staff and visitors are expected to practice good hygiene by washing hands frequently or by using hand sanitizer when hand washing is unpracticable;

3. Frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned by disinfectant or other approved method;
4. All persons, entering any Spokane County District Courtroom and all Spokane County District Court staff entering all courtrooms, or administrative areas, shall be required to wear a mask, unless exempted under paragraph #5 below. Individuals *actively* participating in a court proceeding may remove their masks if they wish. The Court may also direct the removal of masks worn by active participants to facilitate clear communication and due process. "Active participant" includes those seated at counsel tables, witnesses, and judge.
5. Pursuant to the face covering directive, the following individuals do not need to wear a facial covering:
 - a) Any child aged two or less;
 - c) Any individual who has a physical disability that prevents easily wearing or removing a face covering
 - d) Any individual who is hearing impaired and uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication or an individual who is communicating with a person who is hearing impaired and uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication;
 - e) Any individual who has been advised by a medical professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that individual for health-related reasons;
 - f) Any individual who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
6. Spokane County District Court may adopt further restrictions as necessary to respond to and mitigate the effect of COVID-19 and will do so by further court order

DATED THIS THE 13th DAY OF AUGUST 2021.


Aimee N. Maurer
Presiding Judge