

**SPOKANE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO PUBLIC
HEALTH

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO. 19 Amendment to Emergency Order No.1

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State and Spokane County:

WHEREAS, Spokane County District Court continues to operate under a State of Emergency due to the continuing COVID-19 health pandemic;

WHEREAS, Court operations are deemed an “essential” function pursuant to the Governor’s pandemic proclamation and Spokane County District Court is governed by the laws of the State of Washington and the Washington Supreme Court’s Emergency Orders;

WHEREAS, Spokane County District Court has implemented safety protocols consistent with public health experts, including but not limited to the Spokane Regional Health Department and the Center for Disease Control, to reduce the transmission of the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, on July 30th, 2021, Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice, Steve Gonzalez, informed Presiding Judges that “nothing prevents you as Presiding Judges and Court Administrators from enacting more enhanced restrictions depending upon your local public health metrics or other local conditions”;

WHEREAS, on February 28th, 2022 Governor Inslee announced that on March 12, 2022 the indoor mask mandate will be lifted in Washington State

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED EFFECTIVE SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2022:

1. All persons entering any Spokane County District Court courtroom and all Spokane County District Court staff entering all courtrooms and/or administrative areas will no longer be required to wear a face mask.
2. Any person desiring to wear a face mask may continue to do so.
3. Any person who is physically ill or in quarantine shall not enter the Courthouse.
4. Staff and visitors are expected to practice good hygiene by washing hands frequently or by using hand sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable.
5. Frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned by disinfectant or other approved methods.
6. Video/ZOOM hearings and telephonic hearings will be permitted to the greatest extent possible to encourage continued social distancing as recommended by both the Centers for Disease Control and local public health officials.

7. All courthouse locations will remain open.

The public is encouraged to contact the Court via telephone or email whenever possible.

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

DATED this 11th day of March, 2022



Presiding Judge Aimee Maurer