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YAKIMA MUNICIPAL COURT

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE CITY OF YAKIMA IN AND FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, AND YAKIMA COUNTY

In Re:)
Č) GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-02
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION LIMITING) ORDER SUPPLEMENTING ORDERS 2020-02
COURT OPERATIONS RESULTING FROM	•) ENTERED JUNE 1, 2020, JUNE 17, 2020 AND
) JUNE 26, 2020 AND
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY	•) EXTENDING SAID ORDERS
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WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has issued multiple statewide orders entitled IN THE MATTER OF STATEWIDE RESPONSE BY WASHINGTON STATE COURTS TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; and

WHEREAS, Yakima Municipal Court entered an order on June 17, 2020 suspending jury trials until September 1, 2020 and continuing to hear criminal cases telephonically with documents filed in O Courts, and continuing to consider infractions by written statement or agreed dispositions filed in O Courts; and

WHEREAS, Yakima Municipal Court desires to supplement said order to give clear direction to the public, litigants, attorneys and court staff as to the implementation of the Supreme Court Order in Yakima Municipal Court and to clarify and extend its own order so that all understand that the wearing of facial coverings in the public areas of the Municipal Court, or in non-public areas where social distancing cannot be observed shall be mandated to follow public health measures imposed during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Yakima County Health District has issued directives concerning the current status of COVID-19 in this community, as well as taking into consideration the recommendations from the Health Department and the Center for Disease Control concerning attempts to contain the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, Yakima County remains a COVID 19 hotspot surpassing 6000 confirmed cases and 132 deaths, with its main hospital exceeding capacity. Yakima County remains in Phase I of the Governor's reopening plan. The Health District has issued a directive concerning facial coverings, and

Governor Inslee has proclaimed that no person may appear in a public place or business without a facial—covering in Yakima County effective June 26, 2020 and

WHEREAS, the Yakima Municipal Court finds that a supplemental order tailored to address the escalation and non-containment of COVID 19 in the City and County of Yakima does not conflict with the Supreme Court Order and is warranted to address the current local condition of the public health emergency,

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, attorneys and the public, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. The June 17, 2020 order is hereby extended in its entirety and supplemented in the following manner:
- 2. All persons must wear masks or other appropriate facial covering of the mouth and nose when entering or remaining in the public areas of the Yakima Municipal Court unless they have a precluding medical condition in accordance with public health guidelines. All persons-shall comply with all directions and markings to ensure social distancing. The number of persons allowed in the courtroom at one time shall be limited.
- 3. A judicial officer may allow or order individuals actively participating in a court proceeding to remove a facial covering, if the judicial officer deems it can be done safely and is necessary to facilitate clear communication and due process.
- 4. Any person who is sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 shall not enter into court areas.
- 5. The June 26, 2020 order was reviewed on July 1, 2020 and is not modified as of today's date, July 2, 2020 as no further direction has been provided by the Washington State Supreme Court and that court's orders concerning the statewide response by Washington State Courts to the COVID 19 public Health emergency recognize that nothing in said orders limits the authority of courts to adopt measures to protect health and safety that are more restrictive as circumstances warrant. Based upon the current circumstances prohibiting Yakima County from progressing to Phase II of the Governor's Safe Start re-opening plan, the Municipal Court order filed June 26, 2020 is still in effect until at least September 1, 2020, but will continued to be reviewed a weekly basis and may be modified as necessary to address the ongoing state of emergency.

DATED THIS 2nd day of July, 2020,

Susan J. Woodard, Presiding Judge Yakima Municipal Court