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

IN THE MATTER OF	)	
	)	NO. 011121
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PUBLIC	)	
HEALTH THREAT	)	SEVENTH EMERGENCY
(Coronavirus –COVID-19)	)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
	)	
	)	

WHEREAS, On February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health crisis posed by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID 19). This state of emergency continues to the present day, and is expected to exist going forward. On November 15, 2020, Governor Inslee announced a doubling of coronavirus transmission rates had occurred in the previous two weeks in Washington State, further endangering public safety. Effective November 16, 2020, indoor social gatherings were banned for non-family members until December 14, 2020. On December 8, 2020, Governor Inslee extended this order until January 4, 2021. On December 30, 2020, Governor Inslee extended again extended this order until January 11, 2021. On January 5, 2021, Governor Inslee issued the “Healthy Washington-Roadmap to Recovery” COVID-19 phased recovery plan. This plan divides the state into eight regions. At this time, the entire State of Washington, including Whitman County’s “East” region are placed in Phase 1 which maintains the same restrictions on indoor gatherings that have been in place since November 16, 2020.

WHEREAS, the State Supreme Court of Washington has previously authorized the Presiding Judge of the District and Municipal Courts to suspend court rules as necessary to

1 promote the public safety while keeping the courts as open as possible, and this Court has  
2 enacted Emergency Administrative Orders as follows:

3 FIRST EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No.031720

4 SECOND EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No.050520

5 THIRD EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No.061520

6 FOURTH EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No.111920

7 FIFTH EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No.121020

8 SIXTH EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No.123120

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10 WHEREAS, the latest public health numbers in Washington State indicate COVID-19  
11 infections and in particular, Whitman County Public Health Department reports COVID-19 levels  
12 in Whitman County remain at or near the "High Activity," in the red zone on the spectrum chart,  
13 defined as more than 350 cases per 100,000 people over 14 days. Whitman County Public  
14 Health has reported "High Activity" levels each week for, at very least, the last eight weeks. This  
15 data indicates that there is danger in having indoor gatherings of any size, and

16 WHEREAS, this court has taken steps to ensure continued access to justice while protecting  
17 the public safety and health,

18 NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED


- 19 1) Jury trials are suspended, effective immediately until after February 5, 2021. This action  
20 is deemed necessary as it is not physically possible to gather prospective jurors,  
21 empanel a jury and allow that jury to deliberate, while maintaining the social distancing  
22 requirements issued by our Governor and set out by the State Department of Health's  
23 "Guidelines for Operations during the COVID -19 Pandemic" issued in June of 2020  
24 regarding the resumption of jury trials.
- 25 2) Pursuant to the authority granted by the Washington State Supreme Court in paragraph  
26 12 and 23 of Order No. 25700-B-646, the Judge of Whitman County District Court finds  
27 that the current rise of cases of COVID -19 is an unavoidable circumstance requiring the  
28 suspension of the time for trial rule CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8). Therefore, the time between  
November 16, 2020 and the next scheduled court date after February 5, 2021 shall be  
EXCLUDED when calculating time for trial. Furthermore, all jury trials currently  
scheduled between today's date through February 5, 2021 are cancelled and shall be  
reset after February 5, 2021.
- 3) After February 5, 2021, the court may further exclude time under these rules based on  
individual findings of "unavoidable circumstance" due to COVID-19 or other  
circumstances. Any future exclusion shall be made by subsequent Order of the court.
- 4) The District Court Clerk's Office in Colfax and in Pullman will remain open for regular  
business hours.

1 5) All other court operations will continue to proceed with the use of in-person and virtual  
2 appearances as described in this court's THIRD EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE  
3 ORDER No. 061520.

4 This order may be modified consistent with the Court's continual assessment of the needs of  
5 the community as well as the recommendations of public health officials. Further, this order  
6 incorporates by reference all previous orders issued by the Washington State Supreme  
7 Court as well as this court in reference to the COVID-19 pandemic. All orders shall be  
8 posted at the Whitman County District Court Clerk's Office and online with the Washington  
9 State Administrative Office of the Courts website and at [www.whitmancounty.org](http://www.whitmancounty.org) on the  
10 District Court page.

11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

12 This 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

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17 John Hart  
18 Presiding Judge, Whitman County District Court  
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