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

|                              |   |                      |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF             | ) |                      |
|                              | ) | NO. 082321           |
| EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PUBLIC | ) |                      |
| HEALTH THREAT                | ) | TENTH EMERGENCY      |
| (Coronavirus –COVID-19)      | ) | ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER |
|                              | ) |                      |
|                              | ) |                      |

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court and Whitman County District Court have issued multiple Emergency Orders in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Through the emergency orders, the Washington State Supreme Court has specifically delegated to local courts the authority to adopt measures necessary to protect public health and safety of their communities and has directed courts to follow the most protective health guidance applicable in their jurisdiction. Further, General Court Rule 36(a) vests in the Courts the authority to establish reasonable protocols to protect the safety of employees, case participants and the public. Washington State and Federal cases support the authority of the courts to adopt reasonable procedures and rules regarding safety. See *State v. Hartzog*, 96 Wn.2d 383 (1981); *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U.S. 11 (1905).

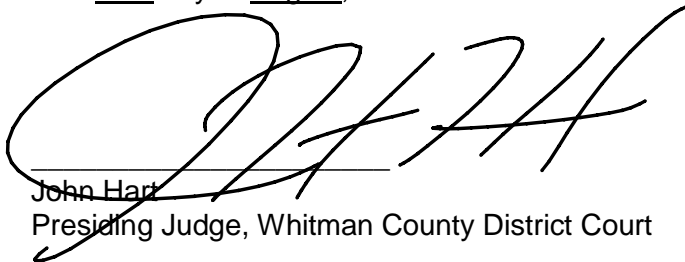
WHEREAS, the Washington’s Secretary of Health issued Order 20-03.4 on August 19, 2021 and Governor Inslee issued Order 20-25.15 on August 20, 2021 that orders all individuals wear a facial covering over their mouth and nose while in an indoor public place.

1 NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED,

- 2 1. Masks/face coverings will be required to be worn in the Whitman County District  
3 Courtroom and the entire Pullman branch facility, regardless of vaccination status.
- 4 2. Members of the public reporting for jury duty will be required to wear a mask in all areas  
5 of the courthouse.
- 6 3. A person may remove their mask in the courtroom at the discretion of a judicial officer in  
7 their courtrooms to ensure effective communication, to enable compliance with ADA  
8 requirements, and to ensure the fairness of the proceedings and avoid prejudice to any  
9 person.
- 10 4. Pursuant to the Order 20-03.4 issued by the Washington Secretary of Health, any  
11 person's health and safety that is put at risk by wearing a face covering is exempt from  
12 this policy. Special accommodations for ADA issues will be addressed on a case-by-  
13 case basis. While children 2, 3 and 4 years of age are strongly encouraged to wear a  
14 mask with the close supervision of an adult, children under the age of 5 years are not  
15 required to wear a face covering and children under 2 are to never wear a mask to due  
16 risk of suffocation.
- 17 5. All previous Emergency Administrative Orders not inconsistent with this Order remain in  
18 full effect.
- 19 6. The Whitman County District Court and its offices in Colfax and Pullman remain open in  
20 all other respects.

21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 This 23rd day of August, 2021.

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26   
27 John Hart  
28 Presiding Judge, Whitman County District Court