

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER ) THE EXIGENT ) CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED ) BY COVID-19 AND ) RELATED CORONAVIRUS )	GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 2021 - 03 COVID-19 EMERGENCY LIMITED COURT OPERATIONS
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PURSUANT TO order No. 25700-B-626 of The Supreme Court of Washington and GR 21, as Presiding Judge of the Seattle Municipal Court, in the interest of both public safety and public health during the COVID-19 crisis, given the significant number of COVID-19 cases in the greater King County area, and the growing number of cases due to the Delta variant,


IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Pre-Trial Continuances: The Court will not be expanding calendars to full capacity as planned in September 2021 due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the region. The inability to expand calendars has created an unavoidable lack of available calendar space beyond the control of the Court under CrR3.3(e)(8) and CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8). Due to the lack of future available calendar space, the Court's case backlog and the need to administratively reschedule a significant number of cases due to the change in plans to not expand calendars, all continuances whether administratively performed by the Court or by a granted motion of the parties will result in the future date being considered the initial commencement date for purposes of establishing time for trial under CrR 3.3(c)(1) and CrRLJ 3.3(c)(1).
2. Out-Of-Custody Arraignment Case Setting: The limited number of calendars and the Court's case backlog have created an unavoidable lack of pretrial calendar space beyond the control of the Court under CrR3.3(e)(8)

and CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8). Following an out-of-custody arraignment hearing, the next available pre-trial hearing date shall be considered the initial commencement date for purposes of establishing time for trial under CrR 3.3(c)(1) and CrRLJ 3.3(c)(1).

3. In-Person and Remote Hearings: Unless directly ordered to appear in person by a Judicial Officer, the parties may appear in-person or remotely for all proceedings with the exception of jury trials and criminal motion hearings that require the presentation of video or other physical evidence.
4. The Court may extend the timeframes in this order as required due to the continuing public health crisis and, if necessary, will do so by further order. This order and other applicable emergency general administrative orders may be deemed part of the record in affected cases for purposes of appeal without the need to file the orders in each case. All orders listed in previous general administrative orders not specifically amended in this order hereby stand.
5. Nothing in this order prevents a judicial officer from ordering a person to appear in-person on a specific matter should the Court deem it necessary in the interests of justice or community safety.

DONE this 3rd day of September, 2021

  
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Willie Gregory, PRESIDING JUDGE