

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND
COUNTY OF KING, STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN RE:) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE) NO. 22-01
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED)
BY COVID 19) Re: Jury Trials

FILED
JAN 5 2022
Black Diamond
Municipal Court

WHEREAS, Black Diamond Municipal Court continues to operate under a State of Emergency due to the continuing COVID-19 health pandemic;

WHEREAS, the newly identified Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus is highly transmissible and has significantly increased the current number of infections in the King County region impacting the region's healthcare system;

WHEREAS, Court operations are deemed an "essential" function pursuant to the Governor's pandemic proclamations and Black Diamond Municipal Court is governed by the laws of the State of Washington and the Washington Supreme Court's Emergency Orders;

WHEREAS, Black Diamond Municipal Court has implemented safety protocols consistent with State Department of Health and other public health expert recommendations in order to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, the recently identified and highly transmissible Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus constitutes an unforeseen and unavoidable circumstance necessitating additional precautions to be taken until the positivity rate for COVID-19 infections and the impact on the region's health system improve;

WHEREAS ordering jurors to appear for in-person trials requires congregating a larger number of people in a concentrated indoor space which can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 even among those who are vaccinated against COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on December 29, 2021, the King County District Court executed an emergency order suspending jury trials until February 7, 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED:

Black Diamond Municipal Court is continuing all jury trials scheduled for the months of January and February 2022. Jurors summoned to appear for service between this date and February 28, 2022, will be released from current service and may be deferred to serve at a later time in 2022.

This Order is based, in part, on the Washington Supreme Court's Order of February 19, 2021, Washington State Labor and Industries Guidance and Requirements, June 30, 2021, Washington State Department of Health Order of the Secretary of Health Amending Order 20-

03, June 29, 2021, and Governor Jay Inslee's remaining proclamations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic governing the effectiveness of certain laws.

The current public health situation is an unavoidable and unforeseen circumstance beyond the control of the court, necessitating the court to pause compelling jurors to our courthouse for jury trials in the administration of justice. Any period of delay resulting from this Order should be excluded from speedy trial calculations consistent with CrRLJ 3.3.

This order remains in effect until February 28, 2022, unless extended based upon available public health guidance and statistics. All other Orders of Black Diamond Municipal Court remain in effect.

Dated January 5, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krista White Swain', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Krista White Swain, Presiding Judge