

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
FOR THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS)
(COVID-19) PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT) NO. 2022-02

THIS MATTER comes before the Court on the public health emergency in the City of Gig Harbor, Pierce County, State of Washington:

WHEREAS Pierce County and Gig Harbor have seen a spike in new COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant.

WHEREAS the court is located within Gig Harbor City Hall which is not open to the public at this time and the timeline for re-opening the government building is uncertain at this time; and

WHEREAS Gig Harbor Municipal Court continues to take appropriate steps to make the courthouse environment safe. The Court is convinced that disruptions with jury service are likely based on the lack of controls the Courts have beyond the courthouse environment. The Court has a duty to protect the community at large, all Court employees, and all other city employees in the building.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The court office will be closed to the public from January 21, 2022 through January 31, 2022 and will be re-evaluated at that time. Court staff is available by telephone and via email at court@cityofgigharbor.net.
2. All civil infraction hearings will be conducted by telephone or video conferencing until further notice to address the ongoing threat to the public health.
3. All criminal matters will be conducted by telephone or video conferencing to the extent possible until further order of the Court. The Court reserves the right to maintain or schedule in-person hearings when video or telephonic methods are not possible.

4. All jury trials in Gig Harbor Municipal Court are suspended until February 28, 2022. All jury trials currently scheduled in January and February shall be cancelled and calendared to February 23, 2022, for Readiness hearing. The Court at that time will hear input from the parties concerning when the new jury trial date will be scheduled.
5. The combination of the increase in the spread of COVID-19 and the serious danger posed by COVID-19 are good cause to continue criminal trials and constitute an unavoidable circumstance under CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8). Therefore, the time between the entry of the Emergency Administrative Order and the first court appearance after February 28, 2022, in Gig Harbor Municipal Court shall be excluded from calculation of time for trial.
6. This order may be amended or withdrawn as warranted to address the on-going public health emergency.

DATED this 20th day of January 2022.

Approved electronically by Judge Sandra Allen
Sandra L. Allen, Presiding Judge