

# Addendum to MMC Emergency Order 2020-06

## Mask Policy

06.19.2020

Introduction and Statement of Authority – The Court’s authority is derived from statute and Court Rule. Specifically, a “safe courthouse environment is fundamental to the administration of justice”. GR 36 (a). This face covering policy recognizes the independent authority of the Courts to provide a safe environment for all participants as well as the need for a policy that safeguards the fairness of the fact-finding process. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Washington State D.O.H. currently recommend that individuals wear a face covering to protect themselves, and others. GR 36(a) vests in the Courts the authority to establish reasonable protocols to protect the safety of employees, case participants and the public.

Masks are Required – Effective 6/22/2020, any person entering or remaining within the Marysville Municipal Court building shall wear a mask or cloth covering over their mouth and nostrils. A face shield that covers the entire face may be substituted for a mask.

Failure to Wear Mask -Any person not wearing a mask or face covering will be denied entry to the Court building. Individuals are expected to provide their own masks; Court staff will not provide masks to members of the public.

Exceptions to Mask Requirement– This mask requirement does not apply to:

- Children 2 years or younger;
- A person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or wears an audio device incompatible with a mask
- Any person with a disability such that wearing a mask or shield is not practical;
- Any person possessing a written doctor’s note that wearing a mask may pose a health hazard for that individual
- Other cases for which good cause exists as determined by the Court

In-Court Mask Requirements – The Court recognizes that courtroom proceedings involving witness testimony and the right of confrontation are well-regulated by case law and Constitutional guarantees. A judicial officer presiding over a testimonial hearing, bench trial, or Jury trial may provide a variance from this policy. Additionally, a judicial officer presiding over any type of hearing or court proceeding may require a person to remove his or her face covering if the administration of justice requires it, for example, to identify the person. This determination shall be at the sole discretion of the judicial officer. Attorneys and parties seeking a variance from the policy are strongly encouraged to provide as much advance notice as possible to the Court if they intend to seek a variance.

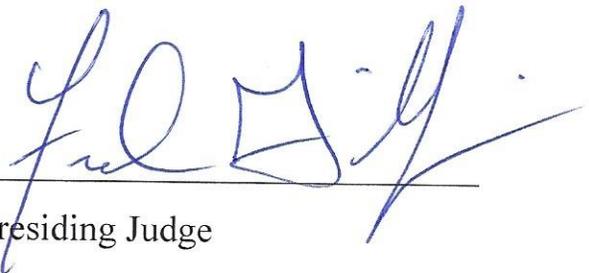
Social Distancing All persons shall strictly adhere to all markings to ensure social distancing. All persons who enter any courtroom must maintain six (6) feet of distance between themselves and anyone who is not a member of their household. The number of persons allowed into a courtroom at any one time shall be limited. The limitations on number of persons shall be consistent with current public health guidance and compliant with both state and local directives. The courtrooms are marked to indicate allowable seating and places to stand when moving about the courtroom. Anyone, including attorneys, failing to strictly adhere to the social distancing provisions of this Order may be asked to leave, or will be removed from the courtroom.

Sanitizing is Recommended - Hand sanitizer will be available in every courtroom, and every member of the public is encouraged to utilize the available sanitizers. Courthouse locations will be cleaned daily, and frequently touched surfaces inside the courtrooms will be wiped down between calendar sessions. Certain facilities cannot be cleaned after each use, and the public may be excluded from those areas (Example: Bathrooms)

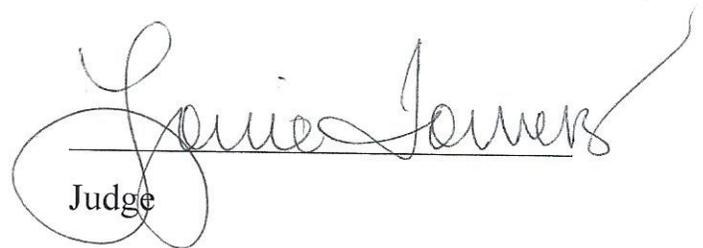
Message to Those Who are Ill - Persons who are ill, or caring for persons who are ill, should remain home. If signs of illness are detected, you may be refused entry or be asked to leave. Call the court at 360-363-8050 to reschedule your court date.

High Risk Individuals - Persons who have been deemed part of a high-risk population to the novel coronavirus should also consider whether it is safe for them to enter a public courthouse and may call the court to reschedule their court date or to ask about alternative arrangements to in-person appearances. The Court wishes to emphasize safety over attendance during this emergent situation.

SO ORDERED THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2020.



Presiding Judge



Judge