

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF COLORADO LARIMER COUNTY AND JACKSON COUNTY 201 Laporte Avenue, Suite 100 Fort Collins, CO 80521 Telephone: (970) 494-3500	
<p style="text-align: center;">SECOND AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CONCERNING 8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JURY TRIAL PROCEDURES RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COURT USE ONLY</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SECOND AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-9</p>	

The history and necessity of this Order is detailed in 2020-9. Since Administrative Order 2020-9 went into effect, jury trials in the 8th Judicial District were suspended from November 20, 2020 through February 15, 2021. Revised Administrative Order 2021-9 explains current courtroom procedures in effect that must be followed. The additional following procedures will go into effect regarding jury trials on May 24, 2021:

Juror Summonses and Information

Summonses for jury duty will contain language notifying recipients that if they have COVID-19 symptoms, they should not come to the courthouse and should instead call to defer their jury service. Summonses will also include language that if the recipient is in the population vulnerable to COVID-19 and wishes to reschedule jury duty, he or she may do so by contacting the Larimer County Jury Commissioner to request a postponement.

The summons will also refer prospective jurors to the 8th Judicial District web page where citizens will be notified of the current masking requirements. In addition, the message on the juror information phone line will reference the website information.

Juror Check-In and Orientation

Revised Administrative Order 2021-9 prohibits individuals with certain symptoms entering the building. Jurors will be provided notice of these prohibitions when entering the building and staff will ensure any prospective juror with positive symptoms will have their service deferred. Jurors

will also have the option to defer jury service if they are at increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19 or are living with or caring for any individuals who are vulnerable to COVID-19.

The Jury Commissioner will ensure each prospective juror has a mask and those who refuse to mask or have a valid health reasons for not masking will have jury service deferred to a later date.


Jury Selection & Trial

Prospective jurors will be required to wear a mask, except the trial judge will have discretion to allow speaking without a mask if there is difficulty hearing and understanding the masked juror. Prospective jurors may be asked to stand, state their name to answer questions, and to speak loudly so they can more easily be heard as mask wearing can make hearing the jurors a challenge. The judge should encourage anyone who cannot hear a juror's responses, to raise their hand.

The witness in criminal trials will not wear a face covering while testifying from the witness stand unless the Court permits the witness to wear a face covering. Witnesses in other types of jury trials may be required to wear a face covering at the discretion of the trial judge. The witness stand will have a plexiglass "sneeze-guard" in place. The witness shall enter the courtroom and exit the courtroom wearing a face covering. Interpreters actively engaged in interpreting for participants in court proceedings, where the ability to see the mouth and hear the interpretation is essential to communication, are exempted from masking. Individuals may be asked to temporarily remove their face coverings for purposes of identification during trial, to protect constitutional or statutory rights, or to ensure that an accurate record of the proceedings is made. The trial judge should wear a face covering unless the judge determines it is necessary to remove the face covering to ensure that an accurate record is made. Trial judges shall determine whether attorneys may remove face coverings during opening statements and closing arguments.

The trial judge shall have discretion to modify procedures, with consideration for public health best practices, to be more restrictive in the interest of justice as they see fit.

Dated this 19th of May, 2021.



Susan Blanco
Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District