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BLACK DIAMOND MUNICIPAL COURT  
KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED  
BY COVID-19 AND RELATED  
CORONOVIRUS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 20-02

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700- B-602 granting emergency authority to this court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency;

WHEREAS, this Administrative Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Western Washington, which has been home to the first reported domestic case of the disease and some of the first significant community impacts from school and business closures. As of the date of this Order, there have been over 50 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in King County and over 70 in the State of Washington. Although for many this disease appears to cause only flu-like

1 symptoms, for others it can pose a serious risk, and ten people in Washington have  
2 died.

3 In February of this year, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”)  
4 issued “Interim Guidance” recommending that all employers consider how best to  
5 decrease the spread of COVID-19, including the review of guidance from the state and  
6 local health officials. On March 5, 2020, Public Health – Seattle & King County issued a  
7 recommendation that individuals at a higher risk (e.g. those over 60 years of age, those  
8 with underlying health conditions, those who are pregnant) stay at home and away from  
9 large groups of people. Employers were also advised to maximize telecommuting and  
10 to “feasibly avoid bringing large groups of people together.”  
11

12  
13 Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 in the  
14 area and the severity of risk posed to the public, and given the above public health  
15 recommendations from local public health authorities,  
16

17 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that effective Friday, March 13, 2020:

- 18 1) All civil infraction, and criminal matters scheduled before this court, including jury  
19 trials are CONTINUED pending further order of the Court;
- 20 2) With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court’s reduced ability to obtain an  
21 adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the above public health  
22 recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in  
23 the courtroom, ***the time period of the continuances implemented by the***  
24 ***Administrative Order will be excluded under CrRLJ 3.3 Time for Trial Rule,***  
25 ***as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the***  
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1           continuanes outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendant's right  
2           to a speedy trial, pursuant to CrRLJ 3.3;

- 3           3) Case-by-case exceptions to the continuances provided herein may be ordered
- 4           for non-jury matters at the discretion of the Court after consultation with counsel;
- 5
- 6           4) This Order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil infraction, or criminal
- 7           motions that can be resolved without oral argument.

8           The Black Diamond Municipal Court remains open. Staff in the Clerk's Office will  
9  
10           be available by telephone, mail will be received, and intake desks remain open for  
11           filings. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing Court services while following all  
12           applicable public health guidelines.

13           The Court will vacate or amend this Administrative Order no later than March 31,  
14           2020.

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18           Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

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20           \_\_\_\_\_  
21           KRISTA WHITE SWAIN  
22           PRESIDING JUDGE