EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF COLORADO

LARIMER COUNTY AND JACKSON COUNTY

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SECOND REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS RELATED TO COVID-19

COURT USE ONLY

SECOND REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-9

This Order supersedes and replaces Revised Administrative Order 2021-9.

In 2020 the Court was limited in its operations in efforts to maintain public health, as recorded in Administrative Order 2020-2 and its subsequent amendments. The Courts in conjunction with Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and Jackson County Public Health continue to make active efforts to prevent the spread of the disease, take precautions to reduce exposure, and will continue to operate in a modified fashion with a focus on public health and safety while providing an opportunity for access to the justice system. In addition, Chief Justice Boatright issued an "Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses" on May 17, 2021 extending the masking requirement to June 18, 2021 in all courthouses. On June 15, 2021, Chief Justice Boatright has empowered local judicial districts to tailor the ongoing masking requirements.

The 8th Judicial District recognizes the wide variety of comfort levels with retiring the masking policies in the Justice Center, Loveland Courthouse, Jackson County Courthouse, and 8th Judicial Probation Department. Feedback is received frequently regarding the public's desires to either keep or to retire the masking policy. The vaccine is now widely available and those who want to be vaccinated, for the most part, have been able to receive the vaccine. However, there are still some who cannot be vaccinated for a variety of reasons. Consistent with public health departments, the 8th Judicial District does not require social distancing which allows us to better serve our community by facilitating court operations without spatial limitations. For the greater safety and comfort of our community, the Court will extend the masking requirement until July 30, 2021.

Pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and consistent with local health departments, the following is hereby ORDERED effective June 21, 2021:

1. <u>Masking and Social Distancing:</u> The Court has been operating at no social distancing and will continue to operate with no social distancing required. The masking policies

currently in effect will continue until July 30, 2021. Thus, all persons in public areas of courthouses and probation offices must continue to be masked through July 30, 2021. As such, non-medical face masks must be worn by all employees, members of the public while in the public areas of the courthouses (including in line to enter any court facility or probation office). In non-public areas of the courthouses and probation offices and when not facing the public for service, masking is voluntary but not mandated. In public-facing, non-public areas of the courthouses and probation offices, masks must be worn through July 30, 2021. The probation officers and clients must be masked when meeting face-to-face until July 30, 2021 or until further Order.

- **a.** Exceptions to the masking requirement are as follows:
 - i. Children under the age of eleven;
 - ii. Those individuals who have medical conditions which make wearing a mask or covering a risk to their health or that will interfere with their breathing; or
 - iii. People who are giving a speech for broadcast or audience (however the mask must be worn when not speaking).
- 2. Access to Courts and Proceedings: Anyone who is required to appear for a scheduled court matter such as a party, attorney, victim or witness in a case, law enforcement, or to file court documents in Larimer County Justice Center, Loveland County Court, and Jackson Combined Court buildings shall be present before the Court unless explicitly provided an alternative method of appearance as approved by the presiding Judicial Officer or Judicial Administration. Upon Judicial Officer discretion, Webex will continue to be made available to parties with the connection information remaining available on the 8th Judicial District's website or through the clerk for the courtroom where the proceeding is scheduled.
- **3. Operations**: The Court will resume regular business hours and continue to provide inperson services. Additional access can be found through:
 - **a.** Electronic filings that are faxed, emailed, or submitted through Court E-Filing. Filers who cannot access E-Filing are strongly encouraged to submit filings in Word or PDF format to 08courtresourcecenter@judicial.state.co.us, or via fax or email through July 30, 2021.
 - **b.** Fines and costs may be paid online or via U.S. Mail, at the clerk's offices, and credit card payments over the phone.
- 4. Persons who may not enter the Larimer County Justice Center, Loveland Police & Courts Building, and Jackson County Combined Court: Persons who meet any of the below criteria are prohibited from entering any courthouse in the 8th Judicial District and instead should call the division to which your case is assigned to request to reschedule your court date, request to appear by Webex/phone, or to receive further instructions. If the case is not assigned to a division or if you are uncertain of the division assignment, contact the clerk's office at (970)494-3500 or in Loveland at (970)622-2100.

- a. Anyone who has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher; or
- **b.** Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and who has not received a subsequent test confirming that the person is currently virus-free unless the individual has quarantined or isolated for ten days and is no longer exhibiting symptoms¹ of COVID-19; or
- **c.** Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and who has not quarantined or isolated for ten days; or
- **d.** Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has isolated or quarantined for ten days or longer but is still exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not improving; or
- **e.** Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and who has been in direct contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days; or
- **f.** Anyone who is fully vaccinated and who has been in direct contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days and is exhibiting symptoms.
- 5. <u>Limitations on Court Proceedings</u>: The method of appearances before the Court are in the discretion of the presiding Judicial Officer. The Judicial Officer shall continue to deem necessary accommodations to prevent the risk of health, safety, or welfare to any individuals or the community at large on a case-by-case basis after consideration of all the circumstances existing for the particular case. All jury trials must be conducted pursuant to current public health orders. Unless otherwise directly ordered by a Judicial Officer, counsel and litigants shall appear in person at the time and place scheduled for trial.
- **6. Probation:** The 8th Judicial District Probation offices are open from 8am-4:30pm on Monday through Friday.

The Chief Judge will continue to monitor available information and recommendations from health organizations, and this Order may be revised or extended, as deemed necessary.

Dated this 17th day of June, 2021.

Susan Blanco

Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District

¹ For purposes of this section 4 (a-f), "symptoms" are as defined by current CDC recommendations in effect at the time the person is entering the building.