IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT,

STATE OF NEBRASKA

) ORDER OF THE COURT

) COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

1. Any attorney or party shall promptly notify opposing counsel and the Court if they reasonably suspect that a participant in any scheduled hearing, trial, conference, deposition, or other proceeding may come within any of the following categories:
	1. A participant who has tested positive for or has had close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of any scheduled court proceeding. Close contact means that the participant has been within six (6) feet of the person who tested positive for COVID-19 for at least fifteen (15) minutes;
	2. A participant who has been asked to isolate or self-quarantine by any health care provider or public official;
	3. A participant who is exhibiting symptoms of an infectious respiratory illness, which includes a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, or body aches, or who has been within close contact with anyone experiencing said symptoms unless that person has tested negative for COVID-19 or received an alternative diagnosis. Close contact means that the participant has been within six (6) feet of the person who is exhibiting symptoms for at least fifteen (15) minutes unless that person has tested negative for COVID-19 or received an alternative diagnosis.
2. To the extent possible, counsel shall affirmatively inquire of their clients and witnesses whether they come within any of the above categories.
3. No person who falls within any of those categories shall attend any hearing, trial, conference, deposition, or other proceeding without prior notification to, and authorization from the Court.
4. The Court encourages the use of web-based cameras for routine matters such as docket calls, arraignments, pleas, and sentencings. Nebr. Rev. Stat. 29-4202 et seq. will be followed. Counsel will forward to the Court’s bailiff the email addresses of parties at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of any hearing. Bench trials and other evidentiary hearings will be heard in person or via webcam at the discretion of the Court. Continuances will be liberally granted.
5. Waivers of arraignments is encouraged under Neb. Rev. Stat. 29-4206.
6. All jury trials will be continued until after January 1, 2021.
7. The Court will liberally grant requests to appear by videoconference.
8. Masks, gloves and hand sanitizer will be provided. All individuals in the courtroom shall be required to wear a mask unless the judge makes an exception for good cause shown.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2020.

 BY THE COURT,

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Rick Schreiner, Presiding District Judge

 First Judicial District