

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DODGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

IN RE: CORONAVIRUS AND
COVID-19 DISEASE

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O R D E R

This Court and all the other Courts of the Sixth Judicial District have been and will continue to carefully monitor the evolving circumstances presented by the spread of the coronavirus, and the resulting outbreak of respiratory disease COVID-19 in many areas, including Nebraska. An ongoing public health emergency exists in the United States and the State of Nebraska. The guidance and direction provided by our federal, state and local public health officials suggests that one of the most effective ways to protect against the spread of this disease is to limit exposure, particularly to persons who are at a higher risk for developing a serious illness related to COVID-19.

As a result, all parties and counsel appearing in Court shall wear masks and/or face coverings/shields. Only counsel and the parties to the action will be allowed in the Courtroom. Spectators will not be allowed in the Courtroom unless permitted by the Court in advance for “good cause” shown.

There has been a recent spike here in Dodge County, as well as the entire State of Nebraska. The conditions in the State of Nebraska and the surrounding region, **at this time**, do not warrant the curtailing of Court operations. **However,**

elevated caution is warranted. Accordingly, in order to protect parties, practitioners, witnesses, Court staff, jurors, and the many others who regularly visit the Dodge County Courthouse,

IT IS ORDERED that for all cases before the District Court of Dodge County, Nebraska, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. Persons who have an elevated risk of transmitting the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 include anyone who:

a. Has traveled from outside this country within the last 30 days, or lives or has had close contact with someone who has;

b. Has been asked to self-quarantine by any health provider or public official;

c. Has been diagnosed with, or has had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or

d. Is presently exhibiting the symptoms of an infectious respiratory illness, which include, but not limited to fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

2. 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 categories listed above.

3. To the extent possible, counsel shall affirmatively inquire of their clients and witnesses whether they come within any of those categories.

4. No person who falls within any of those categories shall attend any hearing, trial, conference, deposition, or other proceeding in person without prior

authorization from the Court.

5. Any attorney or party shall notify the Court and opposing counsel if any proceedings relating to the litigation of cases pending before the Court would require travel or other actions contrary to guidance set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other foreign or domestic public health officials or local health departments.

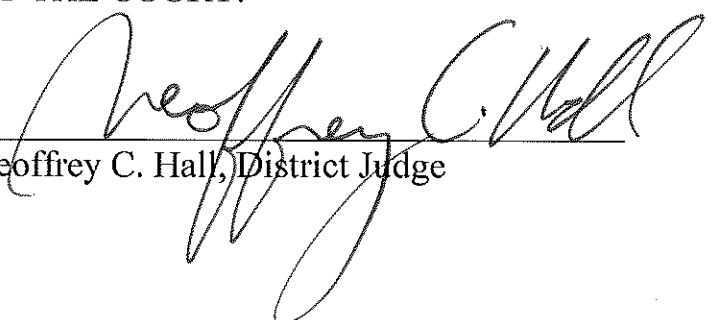
6. All persons coming before the Court are directed to wash their hands vigorously before coming into the Courtroom AND shall utilize the hand sanitizer provided by the Court. Further, the parties and counsel appearing before the Court are asked to wipe down the counsel table and chairs after use.

7. Finally, all persons coming before the Court are directed to fully comply with the Administrative Order issued by Chief Justice Heavican dated November 3, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2020.

BY THE COURT:



Geoffrey C. Hall, District Judge