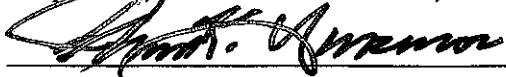


To: Corey Steel, State Court Administrator
From: Douglas County Court Judges, Thomas K. Harmon, Presiding Judge, Fourth Judicial District
Re: **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER - Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19 Disease Response Plan**

Pursuant to the Administrative Order of the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court filed August 9, 2021, the Douglas County Court judges met, and the following uniform plan was adopted which shall be reviewed and amended from time to time in the event the State of Nebraska declares a state emergency:

1. The Douglas County Court is a high-volume court given the number of cases managed on a daily basis, and in further recognition that the Delta Variant of COVID-19 is highly contagious, the Court adopts the following precautionary steps to mitigate the exposure and further spread of the illness.
2. Effective immediately, unless otherwise authorized by the Court, all persons to include court personnel, litigants, attorneys, members of the media and witnesses entering the Courtrooms of the Douglas County Court are required to wear a mask or face-covering. Face coverings may be removed only with the permission of the Court but otherwise will be required in all hearings occurring in the civil, criminal and probate Courtrooms.
3. All reasonable efforts will be made to promote social distancing or spacing in the Courtrooms.
4. Early time and cost pleas, Admissions of Violations of Probation with an agreed upon sentence, Bond Reviews for in custody persons will continue to occur via WebEx in the Courtroom #331/#50 (the jail courtroom) on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and shall be heard by the Judge assigned to that courtroom on that date. Any contested sentencings must be brought before the assigned Judge for final disposition.
5. Entry into a courtroom shall be limited to the persons essential, or necessary for the scheduled proceeding to include court personnel, litigants, attorneys, members of the media and witnesses. No spectators will be allowed in the courtrooms unless prior approval is received from the Court.
6. In custody prisoners shall be transported only for evidentiary matters to include preliminary hearings, trials, motions to suppress, contested sentencings, contested violations of probation hearings. Transportation shall be arranged only upon the written request of counsel.
7. Per the prior Administrative Order of the Court felony bond settings and misdemeanor and traffic arraignments for in custody persons shall continue to occur via WebEx in the jail courtroom.
8. The Presiding Judge will make reasonable accommodations to make all proceedings accessible to the credentialed members of the press who shall be admitted to the courtrooms (other than hearings that are closed to the public) upon the proper request all pursuant to the Nebraska Bench/Media Guidelines.
9. This plan may be modified and/or supplemented and will be reviewed periodically to determine whether it should be extended or withdrawn as circumstances may warrant.

Respectfully submitted this 23rd day of August 2021,

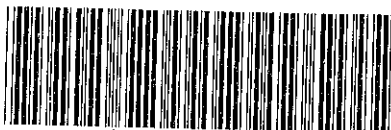


Thomas K. Harmon, Presiding Judge Fourth Judicial District

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CRIM/TRAFF DIVISION

AUG 23 2021

Clerk of Court
DOUGLAS COUNTY COURT
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



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