

**IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
**IN RE: COURT PROCEDURES**  
**AND THE CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19**  
**STATE OF EMERGENCY**

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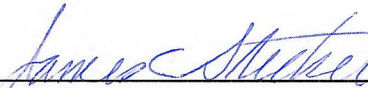
In conjunction with the Administrative Order of Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court issued May 21, 2021; Executive Order No. 21-06 of the Governor of the State of Nebraska; Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Directed Health Measures (DHM); and, the laws of the State of Nebraska, it is hereby ordered, effective June 1st 2021, as follows:

1. The District Courts of the Fifth Judicial District shall move toward normal court operations and shall remain open and shall not close unless or until the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court issues an order declaring a nonjudicial day. Although county officials may close a courthouse or restrict access to a courthouse, court staff shall continue to perform the necessary and essential functions of the District Courts in order to maintain law and order; to protect individual, constitutional and statutory rights; and to provide an open forum for due process of law, consistent with the health, safety and welfare of public, parties, attorneys, witnesses, courtroom personnel and court staff.
2. In order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to staff, council, parties and other participants, the following measures shall be utilized in the courtrooms and court offices of Fifth Judicial District:
  - a) Current and effective Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Directed Health Measures (DHM) regarding gathering occupancy restrictions and social distancing shall be followed;
  - b) Face mask shall be provided and available for use by persons in the courtrooms and court offices. The use of face mask in the courtrooms and court offices shall be optional; however, use of face mask by persons who have not been fully vaccinated is strongly recommended.
  - c) Hand sanitizer shall be provided and available for use by persons prior to entering the courtroom in court; and,

- d) Disinfection of exposed surfaces meeting the directions of the Nebraska Health Department of Health and Human Services, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency shall be practiced in the courtrooms and court offices.
  - e) Court hearings may be conducted by telephone or videoconference as allowed by Nebraska law, by court rule, or as otherwise approved by the District Court Judge of the Fifth Judicial District.
3. The Administrative Order entered March 25, 2020 in the District Courts of the Fifth Judicial District, is hereby modified to provide that the time period to be excluded for the purpose of speedy trial/ adjudication computation in all criminal, traffic and juvenile cases as a result of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 State of Emergency shall be the period beginning March 25, 2020 and ending June 1st 2021.
  4. Any party or attorney may petition any District Court of the Fifth Judicial District and request a hearing for relief from this Order, or to object to the procedures set forth in this Order. Such petition shall be heard and addressed by the Court, on the record as soon as practicable.
  5. This Order may be modified, set aside or vacated at any time with or without notice.

DATED THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY 2021

BY THE COURT:



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**JAMES C. STECKER, DISTRICT JUDGE**  
Presiding District Court Judge  
Fifth Judicial District