

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA	)	GENERAL ORDER RE:
	)	COURTROOM ATTENDANCE
	)	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
	)	OF LANCASTER COUNTY,
	)	NEBRASKA

Public access to the Courts is vital to the operation of the judiciary.

The District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, continues to closely monitor national, state and local responses to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and follow guidance provided by national, state and local public health agencies and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Based on the recommendations of the CDC and other public health authorities, the court will continue to conduct hearings via video or teleconference whenever possible. The court has determined that in order to resume in-court hearings and trials, it is necessary to take precautions against the COVID-19 virus, including:

- Screening of individuals for symptoms and exposure to the Covid-19 virus;
- Social distancing; and
- Using face coverings or masks in public settings.

NOW ON THIS 29<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2020, THE COURT FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

In an effort to maintain the safety of all persons coming into and conducting business in the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, the following shall be followed:

Consistent with a prior order of the District, County, and Juvenile Courts of Lancaster County, unless otherwise authorized by the Court, all persons seeking entry to or occupying the Lancaster County Courthouse (Courthouse) shall wear a face covering or mask, scarf, or other device completely covering and concealing their noses and mouths ("mask"), and such masks must be continuously worn by those persons during the time they are in the Courthouse; and,

Elected officials and Department Heads may set the rules for their employees when not in areas open to the public; and

Everyone is encouraged to come with their own mask/face covering. Any visitor seeking entry to the Courthouse without a mask will be provided a mask by the Lancaster County Sheriff, and if the Sheriff is unable to provide a mask for any reason, the Sheriff will suspend entry to the Courthouse until the visitor contacts the office to be visited to explore alternate accommodations with that office; and,

No person may enter or ride an elevator containing other persons, unless everyone is wearing a mask; and

All persons entering the Hall of Justice will be subject to having their temperature taken and asked questions regarding possible exposure to and symptoms of COVID-19; and,

Social Distancing must be observed. This includes keeping at least six feet of physical distance from any person (not an immediate household member) at all times; and

Other than during jury trials which will be addressed by separate order, the number of people permitted in a courtroom at one time shall not exceed 10, including the judge and court staff. Only one witness at a time will be permitted into the courtroom during a hearing/trial. While waiting to be called into the courtroom, witnesses shall maintain Social Distancing.

- a. If multiple hearings are set at or near the same time, only one set of counsel/litigants shall enter the courtroom at a time. The others shall wait in the hallway, maintaining Social Distancing, until called into the courtroom.
- b. All Exhibits to be offered at a hearing/trial are to be emailed to the court reporter, along with an Exhibit List, at least 24 hours before any hearing. They will be preprinted and marked by the court reporter prior to the hearing.
- c. Access to the secure hallway will be limited to judges, staff, and correctional employees transporting inmates.
- d. The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office is authorized to deny admission or remove any person from the Courthouse who is not in compliance with any of the terms of this Order;


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE DISTRICT COURT that until further notice and unless otherwise ordered by the Assigned judge, the opportunity by members of the public and the media to observe courtroom proceedings will be made available upon request in advance to the Media Coordinator listed on the Supreme Court website.

For attorneys with clients being transported to the Hall of Justice from a correctional facility, it is highly advised that you communicate in advance with your client. Holding rooms in the secure hallway will not be available for consultation. Limited consultation may be available in the courtroom, subject to the court's schedule.

The following Lancaster County District Court Orders: Administrative Order Re: Transport dated March 18, 2020, General Order Re: Courtroom Attendance dated March 17, 2020, and the General Order Re: Courtroom Attendance dated March 23, 2020, are vacated and superseded by this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 29th day of May 2020.

BY THE COURT:



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Hon. Kevin R. McManaman, Presiding Judge