

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

IN THE MATTER OF CONDUCTING  
COURT OPERATIONS SAFELY DURING  
A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2021-013

In response to the current public health emergency, on March 18, 2020 the Chief Justice suspended the empanelment of any new petit juries. This suspension was extended several times through both Supreme Court and Superior Court Administrative Orders. On July 29, 2020 this Court determined that new COVID-19 infection numbers had leveled off at half of their peak and that hospitalization rates had dropped steadily. Based upon those metrics as well as the steps the Court had taken to mitigate the spread of the virus within the courthouses and courtrooms in Maricopa County, and mindful of its Constitutional and statutory obligations, the Court ordered the recommencement of jury trials on August 3, 2020.

COVID-19 infection rates and hospitalizations began to rise during late fall of 2020. In response, on December 3, 2020 the Court issued Administrative Order 2020-170 suspending the empanelment of juries for civil trials through February 28, 2021 while allowing for a limited number of safely spaced criminal jury trials in the South Court Tower. As COVID-19 new infection rates continue to remain at dangerously high levels, it remains necessary to continue the suspension of civil jury trials and the limitation on criminal jury trials beyond February 28<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, pursuant to both Supreme Court and Superior Court Administrative Orders, any person entering court facilities since June 1, 2020 has been required to wear a face mask or other face-covering. Since this requirement was put in place, national, state and local health officials have clarified that wearing a plastic shield over the face without also wearing a fitted face mask over the mouth and nose is ineffective in preventing the airborne spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Accordingly,

**IT IS ORDERED** that the suspension of the empanelment of juries for civil trials is extended through March 31, 2021.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that criminal department operations, including limited criminal jury trials, will continue in accordance with Superior Court Administrative Orders 2020-115 and 2020-170.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that wearing a plastic face shield without also wearing a fitted mask that covers the mouth and nose of the wearer will no longer meet the mask requirement while in a court facility. Absent a medical necessity, any person who is only wearing a plastic face shield will not be allowed to enter into court buildings.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 3, 2021

/s/ Joseph C. Welty

Hon. Joseph C. Welty  
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: All Superior Court Judges and Commissioners  
Superior Court Jury Advisory Committee  
Dave Byers, Administrative Office of the Courts  
Raymond Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator  
Richard Woods, Deputy Court Administrator  
Bob James, Deputy Court Administrator  
Keith Kaplan, Civil Department Administrator  
Shawn Haught, Criminal Department Administrator  
Nicole Garcia, Jury Administrator