

Covid-19 Operating Plan

Judicial District: Fifth Judicial District

Courthouse: Park County Courthouse and Park County Annex

Address: Park County Courthouse, 1002 Sheridan, Cody, WY 82414

Judges: Hon. Bruce B. Waters

** All judges in the courthouse should coordinate the timing of jury trials to minimize the number of jurors in the courthouse at one time; however, district and circuit courts may develop separate operating plans.*

Proposed Start Date of Jury

Trials: September 1, 2020 _____

Please identify measures your courthouse is implementing in each of the following categories:
(Please refer to the Covid-19 Jury Trial Guidelines for guidance)

☐ Pre-Courthouse Screening

(e.g. supplemental juror questionnaires screening for high-risk individuals, providing safety precaution information, increasing number of jurors summoned for each venire panel to allow for more excusals)

Prior to any jury trial it can be expected that additional jurors will need to be summoned to allow for more excusals. Prior to being required to appear, jurors will be screened to determine whether that person is an at-risk individual. A formal juror questionnaire is not anticipated. Posters have been placed near the courtroom encouraging social distancing and appropriate hygiene.

☐ Courthouse Protections

(e.g. operating and inspecting ventilation systems, leaving doors open where possible)

The court has no control over the ventilation system. Windows can be opened if appropriate. Some doors may remain open to assist with ventilation. Hand sanitizer, masks and/or face shields will be provided at the courtroom entrance. Signs will be posted reminding those entering the

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courtroom to use sanitizer and comply with social distancing guidelines. The number of people entering the courtroom may be limited.

☐ Voir Dire

(e.g. health screenings on arrival, possible use of larger facilities, staggered arrival times, disinfect courtroom between panels, spaced seating, plexiglass barriers, remote voir dire, providing PPE)

Potential jurors will be screened upon arrival by having their temperatures checked. Routine screening questions will also be asked prior to being allowed entry into the courtroom. Those not meeting the screening standards will be excused. All potential jurors will be provided face masks and/or shields. Depending upon the number of jurors summoned, juror panels may have staggered arrival times. Conducting voir dire remotely may be considered if the number of jurors warrant it.

☐ Seating the Jury

(e.g. PPE, implement social distance between jurors while maintaining ability to see and hear, plexiglass barriers, alternative areas for juror recesses/deliberations)

Jurors selected will be seated with appropriate social distancing. Jurors will be provided masks and/or face shields. It can be expected that trials will take place in Powell, where the final jury panel can be seated six feet apart from one another. Deliberations will take place in the courtroom. During recesses, jurors will be reminded to use the hand sanitizer and maintain social distancing. Courtroom access to spectators during voir dire will be limited. Counsel will remain more than six feet from jurors at all times.

☐ Conducting the Trial

(e.g. allow public access via webcast/livestreaming, create separate areas for jurors and public, eliminate podiums, allow attorneys and clients to communicate via electronic devices, limit use of communal microphones and disinfect after use, limit juror contact with exhibits until deliberations)

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Counsel will question witnesses from counsel table. The podium will not be available to counsel. The witness stand will be sanitized between witnesses. Microphones will be sanitized not less than twice daily during a jury trial. Exhibits will be kept in a notebook and provided to the jury when the presentation of evidence has concluded. Social distancing will be maintained as much as practical.

- ☐ Infection Event Protocol
(e.g. notify public health officials)

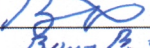
In the event any juror or any other trial participant becomes ill with Covid-like symptoms, the person will be excused and public health authorities notified.

- ☐ Other (if applicable):
(consider and address other circumstances unique to your courthouse and community if necessary)

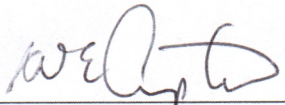
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Signatures:

The operating plan should be approved by every judge regularly conducting business in the court subject to the plan. A representative judge must sign the operating plan, along with the city or county health official.

X 
Judge Bruce R. Williams

August 10, 2020
Date

X 
City or County Health Official

8-10-2020
Date