

# Covid-19 Jury Trial Operating Plan

Judicial District: **Eighth Judicial District**

Courthouse: **Circuit Court, Goshen County**

Address: **2125 East A Street, Torrington WY 82240**

Judges: **Nathaniel S. Hibben**

*\* 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: October 6, 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)*

*The Court has undertaken the following measures:*

- 1. Supplemental Juror Questionnaire mailed to each prospective juror, inquiring as to whether any individual is "high-risk", has been exposed, or travelled out-of-state.*
- 2. Letter to prospective jurors detailing additional steps taken by the Court, and providing opportunity to inform the Court if the juror is unable to serve.*

☒ **Courthouse Protections**

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

*The Court has undertaken the following measures:*

- 1. Opening windows to increase air ventilation;*
- 2. Leaving open doors between chambers and the courtroom, unless court is in session. (For security reasons, doors to chambers are not open if the courtroom is unlocked, either).*
- 3. Cleaning of the courtroom after each in-person use.*

☒ **Voir Dire**

# Covid-19 Jury Trial Operating Plan

*(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)*

*The Court will undertake the following measures during the jury trial:*

- 1. Each juror will be provided two disposable masks to help protect you and others from airborne transmission of COVID-19 (they may also bring your own mask, if they prefer);*
- 2. Each juror will be provided protective gloves upon your request;*
- 3. Jurors will always have access to hand sanitizer;*
- 4. All jurors, witnesses, parties, and court personnel will answer screening questions daily;*
- 5. The courtroom will be sanitized daily and during each break;*
- 6. The Court will strictly adhere to the recommendations of local health officials;*
- 7. The Court will require those present in the courtroom to wear a mask during the jury selection process. After a jury is selected, there will be enough room in the jury box and courtroom to maintain proper distancing and separation. Masks will be optional, but recommended, after a jury is selected and for the duration of the trial.*

## 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)*

*The Court will undertake the following measures once the jury is seated:*

- 1. Social distancing of at least six (6) feet will be required. The Court may place jurors throughout the courtroom, if jurors are able to see and hear the trial.*
- 2. If distancing cannot be achieved, mask will be required.*
- 3. Regardless of whether social distancing can be achieved, the Court will give a general recommendation that masks be worn during the trial.*

## 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)*

*The Court will undertake the following measures during the jury trial:*

- 1. Members of the public will be permitted to attend in-person. The public must follow all Court orders, which will mirror those required of the jury.*
- 2. The Court will setup a video webcast through its Microsoft Hub system, and the Clerks will distribute that information as requested. Signs will be posted near the courtroom doors alerting the public that a video webcast is available.*

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

The Court will undertake the following measures:

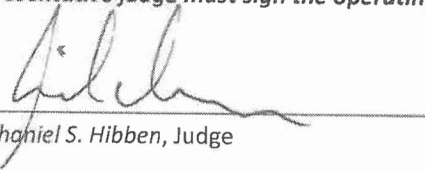
1. Public health officials will be notified if exposure to COVID-19 occurs during the jury trial process.

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

## Signatures:

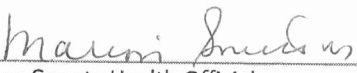
The operating plan should be approved by every judge regularly conducting business in the court subject to the plan. A representative judge must sign the operating plan, along with the city or county health official.

X

  
Nathaniel S. Hibben, Judge

9.23.20  
Date

X

  
City or County Health Official

9/29/20  
Date