

**ORDER APPROVING PLAN FOR THE SAFE RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS
IN LANGLADE COUNTY**

WHEREAS: The Wisconsin Supreme Court, in light of the COVID-19 Statewide and National states of emergency, has entered certain orders related to the operations of the Circuit Court regarding in-person appearances and jury trials;

WHEREAS: Langlade County is experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases and currently working with its stakeholders to modify its court facilities and to change jury trial procedures so as to enable safe jury trials and has not yet been able to complete those modifications and changes; therefore, it is not safe at this time to resume jury trials;

WHEREAS: On March 22, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered that although the courts of the State of Wisconsin remain open, all civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before May 22, 2020 are to be continued and rescheduled by the assigned judge to a date after May 22, 2020;

WHEREAS: On March 22, 2020, and as amended on April 15, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended, until further order of the court, most in-person hearings in the circuit courts, subject to exceptions for certain matters, including those approved by the chief judge of each district;

WHEREAS: On March 31, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued Interim Rule 20-02 which suspended statutory deadlines for conducting non-criminal jury trials until further order of the court;

WHEREAS: On May 22, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered the adoption of the Task Force's Final Report and it's recommendations for consideration by the Circuit Courts;

WHEREAS: The Task Force's Final Report at pages thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) recommends a four-phased approach to the resumption of in-person hearings and jury trials to protect the health and safety of the public and litigants. The phased approach indicates that jury trials should begin in Phase 3;

WHEREAS: On May 22, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered that the March 22, 2020 order regarding the suspension of jury trials, that Interim Rule 20-02 regarding suspensions of deadlines for non-criminal jury trials, and the April 15, 2020 amended order regarding remote hearings are extended for each circuit court until that circuit court shall have prepared an operational plan for the safe resumption of in-person proceedings and jury trials and the plan shall have been approved by the chief judge of the applicable administrative district;

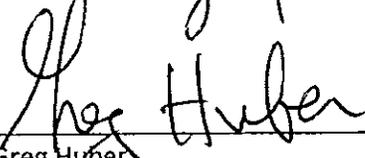
WHEREAS: The May 22, 2020 order requires the chief judge of the administrative district to "review the [operational] plan to ensure that it includes the requirements set forth above, reduces to the greatest extent possible the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, and promotes the health and safety of all those present in the courtrooms, jury rooms, and other court-related confined spaces;"

WHEREAS: The judge of Langlade County has filed with the chief judge of the 9th Administrative District a safety plan incorporating the requirements of the May 22, 2020 order and considering the Task Force's final report. See attached safety plan;

WHEREAS: This safety plan will allow the resumption of in-person hearings consistent with phases one and two of the Task Force Final Report. The judge along with the local health officials continues to monitor the local situation to determine when the resumption of jury trials would be advisable considering the local health conditions;

THEREFORE: Pursuant to Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules 70.19(3)(f), 70.20(1), and the Supreme Court Orders of March 22, 2020, and as amended on April 15, 2020, Langlade County may resume in-person hearings in accordance with the safety plan attached, as designated in the Task Force's final report for phases one and two. No jury trials may be held until there is a complete operational plan that covers jury trials.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2020



Hon. Greg Huber
Chief Judge, 9th Judicial District

COVID-19 Circuit Court Safety Plan for Langlade County

Recognizing the need to ensure the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering the buildings housing the courts, the courts of Langlade County will implement the following protective measures:

General

1. The county judiciary has established a committee to discuss and consider the recommendations outlined in the Wisconsin COVID- 19 Task Force report. The committee includes Judge John Rhode, Court Commissioner Fred Kawalski, District Attorney Elizabeth Gebert, Public Defender Jessica Fehrenbach, County Manager Dennis Clark, Clerk of Court Marilyn Baraniak, Cassandra Doemel-Emergency Response Coordinator, Dan Bauknecht-Sheriff's Dept., Dan Duley-Police Department, Travis Krueger-Sheriff's Department, Ron Barger-Dept. of Health and Social Services, Meghan Williams-Dept. of Health and Social Services, and Nate Heuss-Maintenance Dept.
2. Judge Rhode and Court Commissioners will use best efforts to conduct proceedings remotely.
3. Before calendaring in-person hearings, the committee has addressed staffing needs and has procured equipment and supplies deemed necessary.
4. The committee will continue to meet regularly, maintain communication with the local health authorities and will adjust this operating plan as necessary with any changes in the public health conditions in the county.
5. Judge Rhode and Court Commissioners will begin setting non-essential in-person proceedings no sooner than July 1, 2020.

Judge and Court Staff Health

1. Court officials and staff who can perform the essential functions of their job remotely may continue to do so.
2. Court officials and staff will continue to monitor their own health and symptoms of any illness and will not report to the workplace if they have signs of illness.
3. Court officials and staff are required to wear face coverings in the court rooms.
4. Court officials and staff are required to practice social distancing and follow appropriate hygiene recommendations.
5. Hand sanitizer is available at various locations throughout the court house, including the single point of public entry to the building and at the entrances to the small and large courtrooms. All are encouraged to use it liberally.
6. Signs outlining appropriate hygiene, face coverings, social distancing, and other public safety issues have been posted in multiple locations throughout the court house including at the courthouse entrance, court room entrances, jury room and attorney/witness conference rooms.

Scheduling

1. Court officials will use best efforts to conduct proceedings remotely and will only schedule in-person proceedings taking into consideration constitutional and statutory requirements, the nature of proceedings and the requests of litigants and attorneys.
2. Court staff will use staggered scheduling of in-person proceedings and other appropriate methods to reduce the number of people in a court room at the same time.
3. General Intake on criminal and traffic matters will not be conducted before July 1, 2020.
4. No payment plan review dates will be conducted before July 1, 2020.

Vulnerable Populations

1. Individuals who are over age 65 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy are considered to be vulnerable populations.
2. Individuals who are in vulnerable populations may contact the court to identify themselves as a vulnerable individual and request accommodations or adjournments, which will be liberally granted.

Social Distancing

1. All persons not from the same household who are permitted in the court building will be required to maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet. People who reside in the same household may be closer to each other if they wish. Signage reminders of social distancing requirements will be placed throughout the court house to ensure notice and compliance.
2. No more than two individuals not from the same household will be permitted in an elevator. If more than one individual from the same household is in an elevator, no other individuals will be permitted in the elevator.

Gallery

3. The maximum number of people allowed in the gallery of the large and small court rooms has been determined and posted. Those capacities will be monitored and enforced by court staff and officials.
4. Seating space/areas in the galleries will be marked/restricted to identify appropriate social distancing.

Well

5. In each courtroom, the counsel tables, witness stand, judge's bench, and clerk, court reporter, and bailiff seating have been arranged in such a way so that there is social distancing of at least 6 feet between each space.

Hygiene

1. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed throughout the courthouse building, including the single point of public entry to the building and at the entrances to the small and large courtrooms.

2. Disinfectant wipes or spray will be used regularly throughout the courtroom, at counsel tables, at the witness stand, on the judges' benches, clerks' station and court reporter's station and are available for additional use upon request. All people in the court rooms are encouraged to use the disinfectant frequently throughout the day in the areas where they have been, including on chairs where they have sat.

3. Signs outlining appropriate hygiene, face coverings, social distancing, and other public safety issues have been posted in multiple locations throughout the court house including at the courthouse entrance, entrances to both court rooms, jury room and attorney/witness conference rooms.

Signs

Signs regarding the following have been posted in multiple locations throughout the court house including at the courthouse entrance, entrances to both court rooms, jury room and attorney/witness conference rooms:

- Availability and use of face coverings
- Availability and use of hand sanitizer
- Availability and use of disinfectant sprays and wipes
- Social Distancing
- Accommodations for vulnerable populations and those at risk
- Possible symptoms of COVID-19

Screening

1. When individuals attempt to enter the court house or other areas of the court house, they may be asked if they are feeling feverish; have a cough, sore throat, significant fatigue, shortness of breath, repeated shaking, chills, muscle pain, headache, new loss of taste or smell, or difficulty breathing; have traveled on a air plane within the last 14 days, or have been in close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19. Individuals who indicate yes to any of these questions may be refused admittance or required to leave the court house. If required to appear in court, the appropriate court office will be immediately notified and adjournment granted if necessary. Signage to this effect will be posted throughout the court house.

2. When individuals attempt to enter the court house, an infrared thermometer may be used to determine the temperature of the individual. Individuals whose temperature equals or exceeds 100.0°F will be refused admittance to the court house. If required to appear in court, the appropriate court office will be immediately notified and adjournment granted if necessary. Signage to this effect will be posted throughout the court house.

3. Inmates being transported from the jail to the court house will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and have their temperature taken prior to transport. Inmates with symptoms or a temperature equal to or above 100.0°F will not be transported to the court house.

4. Staff who are screening individuals entering the court house will be provided personal protective equipment.

5. Staff who are doing the screening will have a listing of court official phone numbers in order to notify the courts of individuals who may have been denied entrance.

Face Coverings

1. All individuals in the court rooms must wear a mask during court proceedings, except for witnesses when testifying, who may be provided with a transparent face shield instead of a mask or other appropriate protective measures for testifying witnesses will be followed. Compliance will be enforced by appropriate court officials and law enforcement officers. Signage to this effect will be posted throughout the court house.
2. Individuals will be encouraged to bring cloth face coverings with them. The county will provide disposable face masks to those who do not have their own face coverings. Signage to this effect will be posted throughout the court house.

Cleaning

1. Courthouse cleaning staff will clean all areas of the courthouse at least daily.
2. Courthouse cleaning staff have been provided cleaning supplies believed to be effective against the COVID-19 virus.
3. Courthouse cleaning staff have been trained on proper cleaning techniques and provided appropriate personal protective equipment.

Date: 6/16/2020

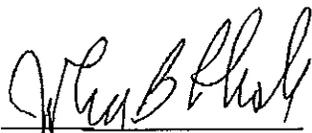
John B Rhoads
Presiding Judge

Date: 6/17/20

Ray Huber
Chief Judge Approval

Addendum to Langlade County Safety Plan

This plan does not apply to jury trials at this time, and will be supplemented to do so at a later date.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Rhode", written over a horizontal line.

John B. Rhode

Langlade County Circuit Court Judge