

Directive

Jury trials between January 14, 2022 and February 14, 2022

It is hereby ordered that the Lakewood Municipal Court will not hold jury trials between January 14, 2022 and February 14, 2022. Trials to the Court and other hearings may still be held in person at the discretion of the Court. Any cases capable of being heard virtually shall be handled without personal appearances by the parties.

Numerous orders from federal, state, and local authorities have been issued to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Jury trials involve large numbers of persons who are compelled to appear in-person at our courthouses. Due to a significant increase in the number of cases and an increasing positivity rate, it has become clear that COVID-19, particularly the Omicron variant, can spread easily among vaccinated individuals and people who are not exhibiting symptoms. Health officials expect that the Omicron variant will continue to surge through January and into February and that such a surge is likely to further aggravate the state's healthcare system.

This Order is issued to protect vulnerable populations of potential jurors, litigants, staff, and members of the public. Other jurisdictions have or are expected to take similar actions. As it has throughout the pandemic, the Court will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 data and rely on the recommendations of local health officials.

Signed this 14th day of January 2022



Anne Stavig
Presiding Judge
Lakewood Municipal Court