



Superior Court
State of California
County of Lake
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
707-263-2374

MICHAEL S. LUNAS

PRESIDING JUDGE

KRISTA D. LEVIER

COURT EXECUTIVE/CLERK
JURY COMMISSIONER

COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE: CHANGES TO COURT OPERATIONS

Issued: April 21, 2021

The pandemic data metrics in Lake County continue to improve. The County moved into the Red Tier as of March 17 and has moved into the Orange Tier as of April 14. The number of vaccinated individuals continues to increase. As a result, the court is making the changes listed below to court operations. The court has remained in contact with Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace, regarding public safety conditions for court operations. The court continues in the effort to provide necessary and essential services to court users while protecting the health of all who come before or work within the court. The court will continue to limit the number of cases on calendar, require social distancing in court facilities, require face coverings and will continue to handle matters via remote means whenever possible pending further notice.

In-Person Court Calendars

Beginning April 26, 2021, the calendars below will begin (or continue) to allow in-person appearances. Zoom appearances will be allowed for those parties or attorneys that were previously ordered to appear by remote appearance. All other calendars will remain as remote proceedings only.

- Felony Settlements, Department 3, Tuesdays
- Felony Preliminary Hearings
- Felony Sentencing Hearings (remote appearance may be allowed by the judicial officer)
- Felony Law & Motion, specially set Tuesdays at 2:30 pm

Civil and Family Law Court Trials and Evidentiary Hearings

Cases set for a hearing on or after May 17, 2021, for civil and family law court trials or evidentiary hearings, will be conducted in-person. Appearances may still be made by remote means, upon request and approval of the judicial officer at the time of the setting of the trial or hearing. The cases that have already been set for remote hearing or trial shall remain set as remote proceedings.

Criminal Jury Trials

The court will continue to conduct jury selection at the Fairgrounds facility in all cases. Commencing the week of May 3, criminal jury trials will be conducted at the courthouse except for cases specifically set for jury trial at the Fairgrounds facility. Jurors who are unable to serve because they are high-risk for COVID-19 related complications, will be excused prior to coming to the courthouse. Additional details about the process and precautions will be provided with the jury summons.

Civil Jury Trials

Civil Jury Trials set for the month of May will be vacated along with the associated mandatory settlement conference and trial assignment dates and will be set for case management conference for resetting. Commencing with the civil jury trial settings for June, the trial date, mandatory settlement conference and trial assignment dates shall remain as set. A civil jury trial to be conducted, as with criminal cases, with jury selection to occur at the Fairgrounds and trial at the courthouse.

Clearlake Court Calendars

Department of Child Support Services Calendar

The DCSS child support calendar will continue to be conducted by remote appearances. However, beginning May 17, 2021, appearance in-person will be allowed.

Traffic Calendars

All traffic calendars will continue to be conducted by remote appearance. However, beginning May 17, 2021, appearance in-person will be allowed.

Unlawful Detainer and Small Claims Calendars

Beginning May 17, 2021, unlawful detainer trials and small claims trials will be conducted in-person. However, appearances may still be made by remote means, upon request and approval of the judicial officer.

Self-Help Center

Same day appointments will be available on a walk-in basis again on Wednesdays beginning May 19, 2021. Individuals may phone or come in-person to the self-help public counter to schedule a same day appointment. After scheduling, individuals will leave and return at their appointment time.

Public access to self-help computer lab will also return May 17, 2021, subject to capacity limits due to social distancing.

All other calendars will continue to be conducted by mandatory remote appearance.

As the situation is evolving, we will keep the public up to date on our website www.lake.courts.ca.gov.