



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 AFTER JUNE 15, 2021

Issued: June 11, 2021

As a result of the Governor's "Beyond The Blueprint" Plan, the court will make the changes outlined below to court operations. Under the Plan, effective June 15, 2021, the physical distancing requirements and capacity restrictions currently in place will be removed. In association with the Plan, on June 9, 2021, the California department of Public Health (CDPH) issued revised guidance on the requirement of face coverings for indoor events that requires an unvaccinated person to wear a face covering unless specifically exempted. On June 9, the Cal/OSHA Board acted to maintain the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards, pending further review, which require physical distancing and face covering by all employees in the workplace unless specifically excluded. As the court transitions operations, the court will continue to limit the number of cases on calendar, encourage physical distancing in court facilities as possible, monitor and apply CDPH, local public health and Cal/OSHA guidance on face coverings as appropriate to court operations and will continue to handle matters via remote means when appropriate.

Mandatory In-Person Court Calendars

Beginning June 21, 2021, the calendars below will begin (or continue) to **require** in-person appearances. Zoom appearances will be allowed for those parties or attorneys that were previously ordered to appear by remote appearance, or those authorized under statute or emergency rule.

- Criminal and Civil Jury Trials
- Felony Settlement Conferences, Department 3, Tuesdays
- Felony Preliminary Hearings, Mondays
- Felony Sentencing Hearings, Mondays (remote appearance may be ordered by the judicial officer)
- Family and Civil court trials and hearings, both short and long cause settings (remote appearances may be ordered by the judicial officer)
- Felony Law & Motion, Tuesdays at 2:30 pm
- Unlawful Detainer, Mondays Clearlake (remote appearances may be ordered by the judicial officer)
- Small Claims, Mondays Clearlake (remote appearances may be ordered by the judicial officer)
- Civil and Family Law Mandatory Settlement Conferences, beginning June 28, 2021

In-Person or Remote Court Calendars (Zoom)

Beginning June 21, 2021, the calendars below will **allow** either in-person or Zoom appearances, unless otherwise ordered by a judicial officer.

- Felony Law & Motion, Tuesdays
- Misdemeanor, Disposition/Setting, Motions, Mondays
- Misdemeanor, Arraignment, Settlements, Tuesdays

- Conservatorship Calendar, 1:30 pm Mondays
- Family Law, Law & Motion, Case Management Conferences, Tuesdays
- Domestic Violence Restraining Order Calendar, Tuesdays
- Juvenile Delinquency, Mondays
- Juvenile Dependency, Mondays
- Civil Harassment Calendar, Tuesdays
- Veteran's Court, Wednesdays (first and third)
- Juvenile Drug Court, Wednesdays
- Traffic & Infractions, Clearlake Mondays
- Department of Child Support Services Family Law, Clearlake Tuesdays

In-Person or Remote Court Calendars (Court Call)

These calendars will allow in-person appearance and continue to **allow** appearances by Court Call. Compliance with all existing Rules of Courts for telephonic appearances will be required.

- Civil Law and Motion, Mondays
- Civil Case Management Conferences, Mondays
- Probate Calendar, 2:00 pm Mondays

Calendars to Continue by Remote Appearances (Zoom)

The following calendars will continue to be conducted only by remote appearance.

- Trial Assignment, Fridays
- Daily In-Custody Arraignments

Jury Trials

For a period of time after June 15, 2021, the court will continue to conduct jury selection at the Fairgrounds facility in all cases. After selection, the 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.

Face Covering Requirements

At present, and continuing effective June 15, 2021, the court will require that all individuals wear a proper face covering when coming into a court facility. The provisions of the General Order On The Requirement of Wearing Face Coverings will continue in effect until further notice.

The court continues the requirement of face covering due to the uncertainty regarding the scope of the Cal/OSHA ETS directives, including application to jury service, and the current requirement that all employees wear a proper face covering in the workplace. The Cal/OSHA Standards are scheduled to be reviewed and may be subject to revision or further delineation on June 17, 2021. The CDPH requires that unvaccinated persons wear a face covering in indoor settings which would include public buildings and the court facility. It appears, the application of the current guidance under the Plan, CDPH and Cal/OSHA will result in classifications of people who are, and those who are not, required to wear a face covering while at court resulting in increased time and effort by the court to monitor compliance by the intermixing of the classifications during normal court operations. The court is striving, under the circumstances present, to act to protect the health and safety of those coming to court. The CDPH authorizes a business or other entity to continue a requirement that all participants wear a face covering.

The court is informed that courts in other counties are acting to retain face covering mandates in courthouses across the state. The court will monitor the CalOSHA Standards related to face covering requirements, and when they are modified, review and potentially modify the court's General Order on face coverings.

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