



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

MICHAEL S. LUNAS

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PRESIDING JUDGE

KRISTA D. LEVIER

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COURT EXECUTIVE/CLERK  
JURY COMMISSIONER

## Lake County Superior Court To Resume Jury Trials with Selection at Lake County Fairgrounds

Issued: August 26, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Lake County Superior Court suspended all jury trials on March 16, 2020 and no jury trials have been conducted since that date. The defendants' constitutional right to a speedy trial has been extended in many cases, as allowed under emergency orders. Although the County and State Shelter-In-Place orders may continue into September and beyond, jury service continues to be an essential government function and all summoned jurors must report as directed.

**Please note: JURY SELECTION WILL OCCUR AT THE LAKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, 401 Martin Street, Lakeport.**

After close consultation with Lake County Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace, the court has secured the use of Phil Lewis Hall at the Lake County Fairgrounds. The court has been working closely with Dr. Pace to ensure all appropriate precautions have been taken.

*"Given the ongoing issues with the COVID pandemic, the Courts have been trying to balance defendants' constitutional right to trials with concerns about preventing the spread of the virus. We have been working together on safety plans, and I appreciate the efforts that the judges and court staff are making to protect people who need to be in the courtroom. We have put together some solid precautionary strategies, and we will reevaluate them regularly to ensure that they are adequate,"* Dr. Gary Pace.

The Phil Lewis Hall is the main exhibit hall, most recently used as a skating rink, which has nearly 10,000 square feet of space. During the past several weeks, the court has worked tirelessly to secure this off-site location and set it up to function as a courtroom. The Court would like to thank Sheli Wright, the Chief Executive Officer of the Lake County Fair. She and her staff have been willing to assist the court in any way possible.

The Fairgrounds facility will allow additional physical distancing for jurors both while entering the building as well as during the jury selection process. It will also allow for temperature screening upon arrival. No one with a temperature of 100.4 or more will be allowed to enter the building.

Once the trial jury is selected, the remainder of the trial will be conducted in the courthouse. The precautions listed below will be taken at both the Fairgrounds and the Courthouse facility.

### **PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP JURORS SAFE**

- Enhanced cleaning measures have been implemented.
- All courtrooms have a supply of hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, disinfecting cleaning spray, and gloves available.
- Touchless hand sanitizing stations are available.
- In accordance with the Governor and the Public Health Officer Orders for mandatory face coverings when indoors, all jurors, attorneys, parties, court staff and judges will be required to wear face coverings.
- The number of individuals in a courtroom at one time will be limited, to allow appropriate social distancing.
- Once seated on a jury, the jurors will deliberate in the courtroom instead of the jury deliberation room.
- An online hardship request process is available, which will allow jurors to request a hardship without physically coming to the court building.
- Individuals considered at high-risk of COVID-19 related complications, may reschedule their jury service online.
- Jurors are directed not to report if they have any COVID-19 like symptoms or any contact with a COVID positive case.
- Any individuals who appear to be ill, will be asked to leave immediately.

“Trial by jury is foundational to our democracy and the cornerstone of our justice system. The court is always appreciative of jurors who fulfill their responsibility to serve on a jury, especially those who will be called on to do so during these difficult times,” Presiding Judge Michael S. Lunas.

As the situation is quickly evolving, we will keep the public up to date on our website [www.lake.courts.ca.gov](http://www.lake.courts.ca.gov).