

IN THE UTAH SUPREME COURT

... ooOoo...

In Re: Pandemic Response Plan

...

Administrative Order

The World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a pandemic. Governor Herbert has declared a state of emergency. In order to protect the public and members of the judiciary it has become necessary for the Utah Judiciary to implement its Pandemic Response Plan.

It is hereby ordered as follows:

1. In accordance with page 6 of the Pandemic Response Plan, the Pandemic Response Plan is activated. The Judiciary is at level "Red" in the plan and all members of the Judiciary are hereby instructed to implement the provisions in both level "Yellow" and level "Red." All court personnel should be provided access to the Pandemic Response Plan as well as the Continuity of Operations Plan.
2. The COVID-19 Response Team formed by the Administrative Office of the Courts is authorized to coordinate and implement the pandemic response. The response team should regularly communicate with members of the Judiciary with information about COVID-19 and about efforts that have been taken, should be taken, and will be taken in response to the pandemic.
3. Presiding judges, trial court executives, clerks of court, and chief probation officers should implement their district pandemic response plans and should coordinate with community partners, such as sheriffs, jails, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. The districts should continually communicate with the response team on the effects of the pandemic in their area.
4. In accordance with the Pandemic Response Plan, presiding judges have authority to issue orders concerning the operations within their districts, including postponing trials and hearings, cancelling meetings, and allowing for remote communications when a proceeding is necessary to preserve constitutional rights.
5. In accordance with the Pandemic Response Plan, presiding judges have authority to issue orders regarding courthouse hygiene measures, including restrictions on public access to courthouses, restrictions on public access to certain areas of the courthouse such as courtrooms

and areas where court employees are performing their duties. Presiding judges may issue orders to security personnel allowing them to enforce the orders on hygiene measures.

6. Managers must act in accordance with the Pandemic Response Plan by developing alternate work schedules, permitting or requiring telework, cancelling in-person meetings and conferences and conducting them remotely when possible.
7. Consistent with the Pandemic Response Plan, the COVID-19 Response Team must help each court implement measures that will continue the mission critical work of the judiciary while also protecting members of the judiciary and the general public.
8. Although the justice courts are not officially within the scope of the Pandemic Response Plan, justice courts are encouraged to provide mission critical services to their communities and to follow the plan as well as the Continuity of Operations Plan. Justice courts should communicate with the Coronavirus Response Team on how the pandemic has affected their courts. The Coronavirus Response Team is directed to assist justice courts in ensuring those courts fulfill their mission critical obligations while also protecting the employees of justice courts and members of the public who interact with those courts.

This order is effective until further order of the court.

Dated this 12 of March 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. B. Durrant', is written over a horizontal line.

MATTHEW B. DURRANT
Presiding Officer, Utah Judicial Council
Chief Justice, Utah Supreme Court