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) ORDER RE:  
) PARTIAL REOPENING OF  
) COURTHOUSE  
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1. All findings and Orders in the “Emergency Order Re: Resumption of Limited Court Operations” dated June 2, 2021 and the “Amended Emergency Order Re: Resumption of Limited Court Operations” dated June 9, 2021 are incorporated herein, except as may be modified below.
2. Despite the Court’s efforts to return to normal operations, due to executive branch interfering actions along with pre-existing unfilled vacancies, the Court remains extremely short of staff.
3. While personnel shortages continue to make regular court operations impossible, the Covid pandemic has gradually been reduced in severity and frequency due to the use of vaccines and other counter-measures.
4. Covid-related restrictions are being reduced or eliminated at the state and federal levels.
5. The Court is attempting, to provide the public with access to justice to the extent practical under these unprecedented circumstances. A partial reopening of the Court to the public will require the use of the Court’s limited personnel as well as re-acquiring personnel who have been inactive at the Court due to the pandemic, including security personnel and warrant officers.

1. Commencing Tuesday, July 13, 2021, the Tuesday calendars (arraignments) and Thursday alternating calendars (pleas and resolutions, probation, and domestic violence) will be physically open to attorneys, participants, crime victims and the public. The Bellingham Municipal Court Building will be open for the arraignment calendar on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. until the conclusion of the morning calendar. The Bellingham Municipal Court Building will be open for the afternoon calendars on Thursdays from 1:15 p.m. until the conclusion of the afternoon calendar.
2. At times other than those calendars described above, the Bellingham Municipal Court Building will remain closed to the public.
3. The clerk's (public) counter will not reopen until sufficient personnel are available.
4. Telephonic hearings will be optional for those who do not physically appear for the Tuesday and Thursday calendars.
5. The Court will continue to stream hearings live for public viewing.

6. Court staff shall develop procedures so that public calendars may be held in a safe manner in accordance with available medical guidance.
7. Any persons not complying with safety mandates shall not be permitted entry or, once admitted, be removed for noncompliance from the Bellingham Municipal Court Building to ensure the protection of all.
8. Court staff shall arrange for the return of court security and warrant officers for public calendars.
9. Due to the need to prepare for public calendars and personnel shortages described above, the Court will reschedule cases currently set on the Tuesday calendars on June 29, 2021 and July 6, 2021 and the Thursday calendars on July 1 and July 8 to later court dates. In-custody cases from June 29, 2021 through July 9, 2021 will be limited to first appearances after arrest, arraignments, and guilty pleas that are urgent due to a defendant being at "time served" if a plea recommendation for jail were accepted by the Court. Emergency motions during this transition period may be heard on the pleadings.
10. Previous emergency orders relating to enlargement of time and speedy trial remain in effect.

DATED this 22 day of June, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DL", is written above a horizontal line.

DEBRA LEV,  
Presiding Judge