IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

)	
)	SECOND GENERAL
)	ORDER RE:
)	RESUMPTION OF
)	TRIALS
)	

The Court, being fully informed, hereby issues the following FINDINGS:

1. All findings included in the "General Order Re: Resumption of Jury Trials," dated August 23, 2021, are hereby incorporated.
2. While staffing issues have recently improved, COVID-19 infections continue to pose a severe risk of infections in Whatcom County. The Bellingham Herald, citing public health statistics, reported on October 11, 2021 that during the week of September 26 to October 2, 2021, Whatcom County experienced 466 COVID cases, 22 of which led to hospitalization and 8 deaths.
3. While most of these cases involved the unvaccinated, the Herald reports that 134 infections, 4 hospitalizations and 3 of the deaths were considered fully vaccinated.
4. COVID-19 is consistently spreading at an alarming rate. According to the Herald, in 7 of the last 8 weeks over 400 new cases were reported in Whatcom County.
5. The dangerous risk of infection, illness, and death posed by COVID-19 to participants, potential jurors and staff constitutes good cause to continue trials.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. Bench and jury trials, other than stipulated bench trials, may only resume on or after December 1, 2021.
2. Any trials scheduled before December 1, 2021 may be reset by a written, agreed order or at the next scheduled hearing.
3. When trials resume, the Court's "Trial Procedures During Covid-19" will be followed.

DATED this 11 day of October, 2021.

DEBRA LEV,
Presiding Judge