

By Kathleen Lagorio
DEPUTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE)	ORDER RESTRICTING
PRESIDING JUDGE RE COVID-19)	COURTHOUSE ENTRY AND
PANDEMIC TEMPORARY CLOSURE)	PERMITTING ACCESS ONLY
)	TO AUTHORIZED PERSONS
)	
)	June 18, 2020

THE COURT HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY,
AS FOLLOWS:

1. Since March 4, 2020, the State of California has been under a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of the novel coronavirus and its associated disease, COVID-19.
2. On March 19, 2020, the Governor of California issued an order directing all Californians to shelter-in-place at their place of residence, subject to certain limited exemptions. Courts are included among the exemptions.
3. On June 18, 2020, new measures released by the California Department of Public Health require residents to wear face coverings in nearly all settings outside of their homes.
4. Protection of public health and safety given the COVID-19 threat has created significant operational obstacles

to the services available to the public through the San Joaquin County Superior Court.


5. The operations of the San Joaquin County Superior Court during the COVID-19 pandemic have been focused upon providing essential court services while, protecting the health and immediate safety of all who enter our court house. As we expand our services we will continue to do so.
6. While the federal Constitution generally precludes closure of substantive proceedings in criminal cases and California Code of Civil Procedure section 124 generally precludes closure of substantive proceedings in civil cases, the current COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in shelter-in-place orders and social distancing mandates to mitigate infection, clearly demonstrates an overriding interest which supports restricting courthouse entry and access to only those persons who are required to be present in a San Joaquin County Superior Court courthouse.
7. Public health and safety will be prejudiced absent such a restriction, which is narrowly tailored to permit only those persons required to enter any San Joaquin County Superior Court courthouse; there exists no less restrictive means of achieving this overriding interest

of protecting general public health while respecting the constitutional rights of detained criminal defendants or juveniles, protecting the health and immediate safety of litigants, and addressing in-custody population concerns. (*NBC Subsidiary (KNBC-TV), Inc. v. Superior Court* (1999) 20 Cal.4th 1178, 1181-1182).

8. It is therefore ordered that access to any and all San Joaquin County Superior Court courthouses is restricted to those authorized persons required to appear in person for a court hearing, including judges, court commissioners, court staff, and other authorized persons such as parties, their attorneys, and witnesses subpoenaed to testify. No other persons will be permitted without good cause. In addition, if an authorized person permitted access under this paragraph presents himself/herself at the entry to the courthouse with a fever of 100.4 degrees, or above, or if such person refuses to have his/her temperature checked at the entry to the courthouse, he or she shall be denied access to the courthouse. All persons must wear a mask or face covering to enter any court facility and at all times while inside.

DATED this 18 day of June, 2020.





XAVIERO B. VILLAPUDUA
PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT