

Mar 30, 2020

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

In Re:

Enacting the Continuity of Operations
Plan (COOP) and Closing the William
O. Douglas Federal Building to Public
Access

**WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS
FEDERAL BUILDING
FACILITY SECURITY
COMMITTEE (FSC)
ORDER NO. 20-01**

In response to the evolving public health crisis caused by the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) President Trump has declared a national emergency and issued guidelines directing at-risk individuals, including those 60 and older, to stay home and away from other people, and encouraging everyone to work from home whenever possible, to avoid discretionary travel, and to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than ten people. Additionally, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee has declared a state of emergency, and on March 23, 2020, he issued a “stay at home” order that requires Washington residents to stay home unless they need to pursue an essential activity, bans all social, religious, and recreational gatherings, and closed all businesses except essential businesses. Therefore, the Court finds it necessary in the interest of justice and public health and safety to take proactive measures to help slow the spread of the Coronavirus

1 Disease and ensure the safety of litigants, counsel, Court Staff, grand jurors, petite
2 jurors, witnesses, members of the public, and members of the community of this
3 judicial district.

4 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that effective Tuesday, March
5 31, 2020,

6 1. The Continuity of Operations plan (COOP) for the United States District
7 Court for the Eastern District of Washington's Yakima Division is hereby
8 **ENACTED**.

9 2. The United States Courthouse in Yakima, Washington (the William O.
10 Douglas Federal Building) is **ORDERED** closed to the public, effective
11 **March 31, 2020**, and it will remain closed to the public through **April 30,**
12 **2020**, unless this order is amended or extended;

13 3. To the extent possible, court staff will continue to process electronic filings,
14 generate notices and orders, respond to phone inquiries, and otherwise carry
15 out the essential functions of the court from remote locations;

16 4. Physical access to court proceedings scheduled and held within the Yakima
17 Courthouse are limited to persons required to attend by the Judge presiding
18 over that hearing, which may include parties, counsel, witnesses, or victims;

19 5. This Order does not impact the plans, procedures, or employees of the
20 General Services Administration, the U.S. Marshals Service, or the Federal

1 Protective Service. Each of these agencies are encouraged to develop plans,
2 procedures, and schedules that support the enactment of this COOP plan.
3 Additionally, it does not impact the ability of Court staff and employees to
4 enter the building as needed; and

- 5 6. The District Court Executive is directed to post this General Order to the
6 Court's website and to distribute a copy to each attorney registered in the
7 CM/ECF system.

8 Dated this 30th day of March 2020.



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13 Stanley A. Bastian

14 United States District Judge

15 (Resident Active Article III Judge and Designated
16 Official for the William O. Douglas Federal Building)
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