

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

IN RE: NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND
COVID-19 DISEASE.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-03

The Court is carefully monitoring the evolving circumstances presented by the spread of the novel coronavirus first detected in China, and the resulting outbreak of respiratory disease COVID-19 in many areas, including Nebraska. A public health emergency has been declared in the United States, and guidance from public health officials suggests that one of the most effective ways to protect against the spread of this disease is to limit exposure, particularly to persons at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.

Conditions in the District of Nebraska, at this time, do not warrant curtailing court operations. Nonetheless, elevated caution is warranted. Accordingly, in order to protect parties, practitioners, witnesses, court staff, jurors, and the many others who regularly visit the District's courthouses,

IT IS ORDERED that for all cases before the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nebraska, the following procedures are in place:

1. Persons who have an elevated risk of transmitting the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 include anyone who:
 - a. Has traveled from China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, or Iran¹ within the last 14 days, or lives or has close contact with someone who has;

¹ This list may be updated as conditions change.

- b. Has been asked to self-quarantine by any health care provider or public official;
 - c. Has been diagnosed with, or has had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
 - d. Is presently exhibiting the symptoms of an infectious respiratory illness, which include fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
2. Any attorney or party shall promptly notify opposing counsel and the Court if they reasonably suspect that a participant in any scheduled hearing, trial, conference, deposition, or other proceeding may come within any of the categories listed above.
3. To the extent possible, counsel shall affirmatively inquire of their clients and witnesses whether they come within any of those categories.
4. No person who falls within any of those categories shall attend any hearing, trial, conference, deposition, or other proceeding without prior authorization from the Court.
5. Any attorney or party shall notify the Court and opposing counsel if any proceedings relating to the litigation of cases pending before the Court would require travel or other actions contrary to guidance set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or other foreign or domestic public health officials.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2020.

BY THE COURT:



John M. Gerrard
Chief United States District Judge