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9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

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11 IN RE:  
12 HEARINGS BY VIDEO OR  
13 TELEPHONE AS AUTHORIZED BY  
14 THE CARES ACT

GENERAL ORDER 13-21

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16 This General Order is being issued with regard to this Court’s prior response to the  
17 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and the enactment of the Coronavirus  
18 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES Act”) on March 27, 2020. Pursuant to  
19 Sections 15002(b)(1) and 15002(b)(2)(A) of the Act, on March 29, 2020, the Judicial  
20 Conference of the United States found that emergency conditions due to the national  
21 emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C.  
22 § 1601 *et seq.*) with respect to COVID–19 will materially affect the Federal courts  
23 generally.  
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26 On March 30, 2020, this Court issued General Order No. 04-20 finding that,  
27 pursuant to § 15002(b)(2)(A) of the CARES Act, certain criminal proceedings could not  
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1 be conducted in person without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety. The  
2 Court therefore authorized the use of video conferences or telephone conferences  
3 for those proceedings. This authorization was renewed on June 25, 2020, in General  
4 Order No. 09-20, on September 24, 2020, in General Order No. 14-20, on December 23,  
5 2020, in General Order No. 17-20, on March 23, 2021, in General Order No. 06-21, and  
6 again on June 21, 2021, in General Order No. 09-21.  
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9         Ninety days after such an order, the chief judge must “review the authorization and  
10 determine whether to extend the authorization.” § 15002(b)(3)(A). I have reviewed the  
11 current procedures of the Court and the daily COVID-19 data from the counties in the  
12 Western District of Washington and conclude that, in the interest of public health and  
13 safety, the procedures set forth in General Order 04-20 must be extended another 90 days  
14 from today’s date.  
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17         IT IS SO ORDERED.

18         Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2021.  
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22         RICARDO S. MARTINEZ  
23         CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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