

**IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

In the Matter of:

**The Suspension of Jury Trials and Grand
Jury Proceedings**

First Judicial District.

PRESIDING JUDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-21

As authorized by the Alaska Supreme Court¹ and Chief Justice, the presiding judge of each district may limit or suspend both grand jury proceedings² and jury trials³ for any location when required for public health or to comply with local health mandates. The presiding judges have been directed to consider suspending jury trials and grand jury proceedings in any location when the average daily case rate over 14 days as reported by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services rises above 20-30 cases per 100,000 population or if the local risk level is seriously elevated.

The current circumstances warrant the continued postponement of trials and grand jury in the First Judicial District:

- The average case rates in the First Judicial District remain above the 20-30 cases per 100,000 threshold. For example, as of September 8, 2021, the average daily case rates over the last 14 days were 73.3 in Juneau, 65.7 on Prince of Wales Island, 78.1 in Wrangell, and 109.7 in Ketchikan.⁴

¹ Supreme Court Order No. 1974.

² Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8234

³ Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8259.

⁴ The average case rate in Sitka is being reported as 30.2; however, the Department of Health and Social Services identifies the calculation as potentially being statistically unreliable, having been based on less than twenty observations.

- As of September 8, 2021, Alaska is experiencing heightened levels of community transmission across the State as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.⁵
- The First Judicial District’s alert level (as set by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services) is “high,” except for Petersburg, which is identified as “substantial.”⁶

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The suspension of criminal jury trials and grand jury proceedings is extended to October 4, 2021. Whether it is necessary to continue the suspension beyond October 4, 2021 will be reviewed on or shortly after September 27, 2021.
2. The time limit for preliminary examination under Alaska Criminal Rule 5(e) is extended through October 31, 2021.

Dated at Juneau, Alaska on September 10, 2021.



Amy Mead
Presiding Judge
First Judicial District



Distribution: Chief Justice Daniel Winfree; Stacey Marz, Administrative Director; First District Judges; First District Magistrates; First District Clerks of Court; Lesa Robertson, Executive Administrator; James Kwon, ACA; Clayton Jones, Rural Court Training Assistant; SBA; JBA; KBA; Juneau District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender Agency, and Office of Public Advocacy; Sitka District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender Agency, and Office of Public Advocacy; Ketchikan District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender Agency, and Office of Public Advocacy; CBJ Law Department and Public Defender; Court Rules Attorney; Office of Special Prosecutions.

⁵ <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

⁶ <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/alertlevels.aspx#current>