

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

**In the Matter of:**

**The Suspension of Jury Trials in the First  
Judicial District.**

**PRESIDING JUDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-26**

On September 20, 2021, the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court issued Order 8333, outlining a list of factors the presiding judges are to consider when deciding whether to restrict or suspend in-person jury trials. The Order directs that once a particular community's COVID-19 alert level reaches "Substantial" or "High," as designated by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, or if the number of reported cases per 100,000 persons over the past seven days reaches 50 or greater, the presiding judge must consider restricting in-person jury trials. The Order requires the presumptive suspension of jury trials in any court location when the number of reported cases per 100,000 over the past 7 days reaches 100 or more. In accordance with this directive, jury trials were suspended in the First Judicial District, everywhere except Prince of Wales Island, through October 29, 2021 by Presiding Judge Administrative Order 21-25.

As of October 20, 2021, conditions in Southeast have not improved. Case counts across the First District continue to be well above the level at which trials must be presumptively

suspended. Therefore, trials in the First Judicial District, excluding Prince of Wales Island,<sup>1</sup> will remain suspended through November 12, 2021. Whether it is necessary to continue the suspension will be considered no later than November 1, 2021. During this suspension, the time for trial will continue to be tolled under Alaska Criminal Rule 45(d).<sup>2</sup>

Dated at Juneau, Alaska on October 20, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> As explained in Administrative Order 21-25 with respect to Prince of Wales Island, given the mitigation measures the Alaska Court System has in place and that community's current case counts, jury trials resumed as of October 12, 2021. Trials must be conducted in accordance with Chief Justice Special Order 8259 and 8194 at sections C and D. In addition, all visitors to the courthouse – including jurors – must comply with Chief Justice Special Order 8310.

<sup>2</sup> Supreme Court Order 1974.