

IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the Matter of:)
) Presiding Judge
) Administrative Order No. 21-10
The Suspension of Jury Trials in)
Utqiagvik)
)
_____)

ORDER SUSPENDING JURY TRIAL PROCEEDINGS IN UTQIAGVIK

As of the date of this order, the Alaska DHSS case rates for the North Slope Borough are as follows. The average daily case rate for the last 14 days per 100,000 residents of the borough is 294.6. The total number of cases over the last 7 days per 100,000 residents of the borough is 1,913.8¹. The most recent hospital survey conducted by DHSS indicates 308 inpatient beds available across the state with 23 ICU beds available.² The local hospital does not provide an ICU unit. The 7-day test positivity rate is at 12.5 % with 541 tests given in the last week. The local hospitals COVID numbers are available at <https://arcticslope.org/press-release-urgent/>, show 211 active cases in the region.

Given this elevated local COVID-19 risk level, and pursuant to the authority granted to the presiding judge by Alaska Supreme Court Order No. 1974, jury trial proceedings are suspended until September 30, 2021.³ Rule 45 is tolled during this time.⁴

Dated at Kotzebue, Alaska this 15th day of September, 2021.



PAUL A. ROETMAN
Presiding Judge

Distribution:

2nd Judicial District Clerks of Court – for distribution to local agencies
2nd Judicial District Judicial Officers
Melissa Samuels, RCA
Brodie Kimmel, ACA
Stacey Marz, Administrative Director

¹ Alaska Covid-19 Information Hub <https://alaska-coronavirus-vaccine-outreach-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>

² AK Covid-19 Hospital Data Dashboard
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/f21f964c046c400baad4ad78e06ceb25/>

³ Alaska Supreme Court Order No.8234 states, "A Presiding Judge may limit or suspend felony, misdemeanor, or violation trials for any district or location when required for public health or to comply with local health mandates. A Presiding Judge should consider a suspension when the COVID-19 average daily case rate over 14 days as reported by the DHSS rises above 20-30 cases per 100,000 population or the local risk level is otherwise seriously elevated."

⁴ Pursuant to Supreme Court Order No. 1974