

IN THE TRIAL COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT BETHEL

IN THE MATTER OF:

Suspension of Bethel Jury Trials  
Through 9/26/2021

Presiding Judge's Administrative Order  
21-16A

**PRESIDING JUDGE'S ORDER EXTENDING TRIAL SUSPENSION FOR BETHEL**

As of the date of this order, the Alaska DHSS case rates for the Bethel Census Area are as follows. The average daily case rate for the last 14 days per 100,000 residents of the census area is 132.3. The total number of cases over the last 7 days per 100,000 residents of the census area is 710.8.<sup>1</sup>

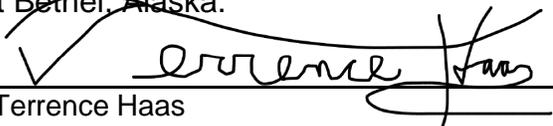
The most recent hospital survey conducted by DHSS indicates 484 inpatient beds available across the state with 28 ICU beds available. The local hospital does not provide an ICU unit. The 7-day test positivity rate is at 10.2% with 1,013 tests given in the last week.<sup>2</sup> The local hospital's COVID numbers available at <https://www.ykhc.org/covid-19/covid-news/> show 242 active cases in the region, a slight increase from the 224 active cases reported at the time of PJ Order 21-16. The first jury trials scheduled as of the date of this order would have begun September 13, 2021.

**ORDER EXTENDING TRIAL SUSPENSION**

The circumstances requiring the suspension of trials as outlined and explained in Presiding Judge's Order 21-16 continue to require the suspension of jury trials in Bethel as there is no alternative set of restrictions that will allow trials to be held in the Bethel Courthouse with an acceptable level of risk. **Jury trials are hereby suspended at Bethel through September 26, 2021. Rule 45 is hereby tolled for the period of this suspension.**

It is SO ORDERED.

Dated this 9th Day of September, 2021 at Bethel, Alaska.

  
Terrence Haas  
Presiding Judge

<sup>1</sup> Compared to the date when PJ Order 21-16 was issued the 14-day daily average is up from 113.9 while the 7 day cumulative rate is down from 940.2.

<sup>2</sup> PJ Order 21-16 was issued when the 7-day test positivity rate was 8% with 1,369 tests given. This is a significant increase in positivity rates.

Distributed via email:

Chief Justice

Administrative Director's Office

4<sup>th</sup> District Area Court Administrator's Office

Bethel Clerk of Court

Bethel DAO

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