

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

Suspension of Fairbanks and Interior Jury
Trials and Grand Jury Through
10/24/2021

Presiding Judge's Administrative Order
21- 18B

**PRESIDING JUDGE'S ORDER SUSPENDING TRIAL AND GRAND JURY
AT FAIRBANKS AND INTERIOR VILLAGES¹**

As of the date of this order, the Alaska DHSS case rates for the Fairbanks Region are as follows: The average daily case rate for the last 14 days per 100,000 residents is 158.9. The total number of cases over the last 7 days per 100,000 is 1,472.8.²

The most recent hospital survey conducted by DHSS indicates 391 inpatient beds available across the state with 33 ICU beds available. The interior region currently has 13 ICU beds available. Hospitals across Alaska are experiencing staffing shortages that compound any facilities shortages. The 7-day test positivity rate for Fairbanks is at 17.4% with 3,719 tests given in the last week, or about 4% of the Borough population tested.³ Vaccination rates in the Greater Fairbanks area are around 48.1% fully vaccinated. Jury trials and Grand Jury in Fairbanks are currently scheduled to commence on October 4, 2021.⁴ News outlets have reported around a dozen COVID-19 related deaths in Fairbanks over the last four weeks.

ORDER EXTENDING JURY TRIAL AND GRAND JURY SUSPENSION

The circumstances requiring the suspension of grand jury and jury trials as outlined and explained in Presiding Judge's Order 21-18 and as mandated by Chief Justice Order 8333 continue to require the suspension of jury trials and Grand Jury as there is no alternative set of restrictions that will allow trials to be held in the Fairbanks or Interior Courthouses with an acceptable level of risk.

¹ "Interior Villages" includes Nenana, Delta Junction, Fort Yukon, Tok, and Galena.

² At the time of PJO 21-18A, the numbers were an average of 85.3 cases per 100,000 over 14 days and 646.4 per 100,000 cumulative over 7 days. These numbers have continued to rise drastically over the previous 4 weeks.

³ This is actually a decreased testing rate since PJO 21-18A and suggests that numbers could be even worse.

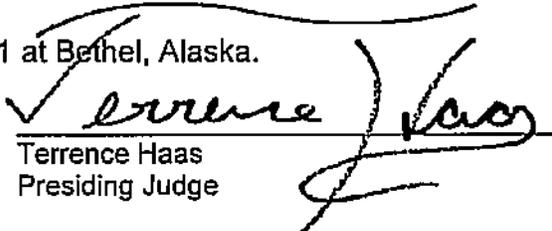
⁴ There is also a trial scheduled for Nenana which is suspended by virtue of this order.

Jury trials are hereby suspended at Fairbanks and all interior villages through October 24, 2021. Rule 45 is hereby tolled for the period of this suspension.

Grand Jury is hereby suspended at Fairbanks through October 24, 2021. The calculation of the deadline for convening preliminary examination per Criminal Rule 5(e)(4) shall be tolled through November 28, 2021.

It is So ORDERED.

Dated this 27th Day of September, 2021 at Bethel, Alaska.


Terrence Haas
Presiding Judge

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