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Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy
Courts for the District of Columbia

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

IN RE: ADJUSTMENT TO FIFTH EXTENSION
OF POSTPONED JURY TRIALS DUE TO
ONGOING EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CAUSED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND
TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF AUTHORITY
TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF
ALLEGIANCE TO NEW CITIZENS

Standing Order No. 20-91 (BAH)

Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell

ORDER

On November 23, 2020, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser imposed additional community restrictions to combat the recent escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the District of Columbia metropolitan area, explaining in Mayor's Order 2020-119:

*Community transmission of COVID-19 is escalating throughout the District and is exploding in many parts of the country. Reinforcement to encourage community responsibility and compliance with health and safety rules is necessary. Flu season, holiday gatherings, and greater indoor activity during winter are anticipated to cause even more cases of COVID-19 and increased stress on our hospital system's capacity. Immediate further action on the part of our residents, employers, and visitors, and further restrictions on activities that are conducive to the rapid spread of the disease are warranted.*¹

Mayor's Order 2020-119 further states that, as of November 23, 2020, the running seven-day average of new cases in the District of Columbia was 23.9 cases per 100,000 residents, and "hospital utilization stands at 82.9% of available beds."² In the last two weeks, the seven-day average of new cases in the District of Columbia has increased 89%.³

¹ Mayor's Order No. 2020-119 ¶ 1.2 (Nov. 23, 2020), https://mayor.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mayormb/release_content/attachments/Mayors-Order-2020-119.pdf.

² *Id.* ¶ 1.4.

³ The seven-day average of new cases was 93 on November 9, 2020 and 175 on November 23, 2020. *Washington, D.C. Covid Case Count*, N.Y. TIMES (last updated Nov. 24, 2020, 2:13 PM), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/washington-dc-coronavirus-cases.html>; see also *Reopening Metrics*, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (last updated Nov. 23, 2020), <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/reopening-metrics>.

Pursuant to the terms of Mayor Bowser's order, the allowable indoor occupancy of restaurants is reduced from 50% to 25%; the allowable size of outdoor mass gatherings is reduced from 50 to 25 persons; and the allowable size of most indoor gatherings is limited to 10 persons.⁴ Indoor gyms and recreation centers have been ordered to suspend activities.⁵

In consideration of the worsening state of the COVID-19 pandemic locally and nationally, including the circumstances highlighted in Mayor Bowser's order, the following adjustments to court operations, effective immediately, are hereby **ORDERED**:

1. **Jury Selections and Trials**. Paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 20-89, *Fifth Extension of Postponed Jury Trials Due to Ongoing Exigent Circumstances Caused by COVID-19 Pandemic*, which provided authorization for a limited number of jury trials to take place prior to January 11, 2021, is hereby superseded.⁶ All jury selections and trials are **SUSPENDED AND POSTPONED** until at least January 11, 2021, without exception.
2. **Naturalization Ceremonies**. All naturalization ceremonies are **SUSPENDED AND POSTPONED** until further notice. The Court hereby notifies the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that it may administer the oath of allegiance administratively to all applicants for naturalization residing in the District of Columbia as of today and continuing until the Court directs otherwise. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1421(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁴ Mayor's Order No. 2020-119 ¶¶ III.1, V.1, V.2, VI.

⁵ *Id.* ¶ VII.1.

⁶ *See In re: Fifth Extension of Postponed Jury Trials Due to Ongoing Exigent Circumstances Caused by COVID-19 Pandemic*, Standing Order No. 20-89 (BAH) (Nov. 6, 2020), ¶ (3); *see also In re: Court Operations in Exigent Circumstances Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Standing Order No. 20-9 (BAH) (Mar. 16, 2020), ¶¶ (a)-(f); *In re: Extension of Postponed Court Proceedings in Standing Order 20-9 & Limiting Court Operations in Exigent Circumstances Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Standing Order No. 20-19 (BAH) (Apr. 2, 2020), ¶¶ (g)-(i); *In re: Further Extension of Postponed Court Proceedings in Standing Order 20-9 & Limiting Court Operations in Exigent Circumstances Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Standing Order No. 20-29 (BAH) (May 26, 2020), ¶¶ (j)-(l); *In re: Third Further Extension of Postponed Court Proceedings Due to Ongoing Exigent Circumstances Caused by COVID-19 Pandemic*, Standing Order No. 20-62 (BAH) (July 9, 2020), ¶¶ (a)-(c); *In re: Fourth Further Extension of Postponed Court Proceedings Due to Ongoing Exigent Circumstances Caused by COVID-19 Pandemic*, Standing Order No. 20-68 (BAH) (Aug. 10, 2020), ¶¶ (a)-(d).

3. **Further Orders.** Further orders addressing court operations in the exigent circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic will be issued as circumstances warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Date: November 24, 2020



Beryl A. Howell

BERYL A. HOWELL
Chief Judge