

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF IDAHO

* * *

RE: FOURTH DISTRICT JURY TRIALS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO. 21-12-23

The Idaho Supreme Court's November 29, 2021 Amended Emergency Order Regarding Court Services provides:

[J]ury proceedings, including jury trials and grand jury proceedings, may commence anytime during a calendar week unless: a. the county in which the jury trial is to be held is located in a public health district in which Idaho's crisis standards of care are activated;¹ or b. the Administrative District Judge has determined that the county in which the prospective juror has been summoned to attend court has a seven-day moving average incidence rate of confirmed or presumed cases of COVID-19 of 25.0 or greater per 100,000 population as reflected on the Cases by County page of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's COVID-19 Data Dashboard available at www.coronavirus.idaho.gov].

The Administrative District Judge's determination described in paragraph (b) shall be **based on the weekly COVID-19 incidence rates for that county published ten (10) days prior to the calendar week in which the jury trial is scheduled to occur**. Idaho Supreme Court's November 29, 2021 Amended Emergency Order Regarding Court Services, at 3. (emphasis added).²

¹None of the public health districts in this judicial district presently have crisis standards of care activated. See <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/community-health/crisis-standards-care> ("On Nov. 22, 2021, Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) was deactivated in Idaho except for the Panhandle Health District in north Idaho.").

²Once a trial has commenced, it should continue to verdict unless, in the discretion of the assigned judge, a significant increase in the county's weekly COVID-19 incidence rate or other local coronavirus exposure or public health action justifies a temporary suspension of the trial. Any order in this regard must be supported with written findings." Idaho Supreme Court's November 29, 2021 Amended Emergency Order Regarding Court Services, at 3-4. See also Idaho Supreme Court's September 10, 2020 Order Re: Commencement of Jury Trials, at 1 ("[T]he word 'commence' means the first day members of a jury venire are required to physically appear at a courthouse or designated facility.").

This order utilizes the data available at the end of business on Wednesday, December 22, 2021,³ from the on-line COVID-19 case numbers issued by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, for each of the counties in this district.

1. Ada County

Ada County had a seven-day moving COVID-19 case average of 16.6 per 100,000 population. In Ada County, jury trials may commence the week of January 3, 2022.

2. Boise County

Boise County had a seven-day moving COVID-19 case average of 5.5 per 100,000 population. In Boise County, jury trials may commence the week of January 3, 2022.

3. Elmore County


Elmore County had a seven-day moving COVID-19 case average of 9.3 per 100,000 population. In Elmore County, jury trials may commence the week of January 3, 2022.

4. Valley County

Valley County had a seven-day moving COVID-19 case average of 12.5 per 100,000 population. In Valley County, jury trials may commence the week of January 3, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 23rd day of December 2021.



HONORABLE STEVEN J. HIPPLER
Administrative District Judge
Fourth Judicial District

³These numbers are being used, due to the Christmas holiday.

cc: All Judges
Sandra Barrios, Trial Court Administrator, Fourth Judicial District
Phil McGrane, Ada County Clerk of Court
Mary T. Prisco, Boise County Clerk of Court
Shelley Essl, Elmore County Clerk of Court
Douglas Miller, Valley County Clerk of Court
Jan Bennetts, Ada County Prosecutor
Adam Strong, Boise County Prosecutor
Daniel Page, Elmore County Prosecutor
Brian Naugle, Valley County Prosecutor
Jayme Sullivan, Boise City Prosecutor
Charles Wadams, Garden City Prosecutor
Tony Geddes, Ada County Public Defender
Rob Chastain, Boise County Public Defender
Terry Ratliff, Elmore County Public Defender
Scott Erekson, Valley County Public Defender
Randy Rutland, Ada County Jury Commissioner
Ashley Turner, Boise County Jury Commissioner
Eileen Kirkland, Elmore County Jury Commissioner
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