

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE:	:	
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ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS DUE TO THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19	:	STANDING ORDER
	:	
	:	

This Standing Order is issued to supplement the Standing Order issued on March 13, 2020, which continued all civil and criminal jury trials in this district through April 13, 2020, due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Developments during the short time since the March 13, 2020, Standing Order was issued reinforce the Court’s finding, with regard to criminal jury trials, that the ends of justice served by granting a continuance outweigh the best interest of the public and each defendant in a speedy trial. On March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued interim guidance recommending the cancelation of gatherings of more than 10 people for organizations that serve higher-risk populations. The following day, the President of the United States issued guidance recommending that people not gather in groups of more than 10 people for the ensuing 15 days. These developments further impede the Court’s ability to proceed with jury selection and jury trials at this time. In addition, the Bureau of Prisons’ suspension of most legal visitation for a 30-day period beginning March 13, 2020, will limit defense counsel’s ability to effectively prepare for trial.

Because the developments regarding COVID-19 in this district outlined above and in the March 13, 2020, Standing Order also adversely affect the Court’s ability to maintain the continued operation of grand juries, it is ORDERED the deadlines for filing an indictment or information set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b) and (d)(1) are CONTINUED in every matter in this district. The

Court finds the ends of justice served by granting a continuance outweigh the best interest of the public and each defendant in a speedy trial. The time period of any continuance entered as a result of this Standing Order shall therefore be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Any motion by a criminal defendant seeking an exception to this Standing Order for the purpose of exercising the defendant's speedy trial rights shall be referred to the Chief Judge. All previously issued grand jury subpoenas for the return of documents remain in effect. Paragraph 5 of the Standing Order issued on March 13, 2020, is VACATED.

It is further ORDERED all arbitration hearings pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2 currently scheduled between now and April 13, 2020, are CONTINUED pending further Court order.

This Standing Order will expire no later than April 13, 2020, unless extended by further Court order.



Juan R. Sánchez
Chief Judge

Date: March 18, 2020