

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF OREGONIN RE: COURT OPERATIONS  
IN REPOSE TO COVID-19

Standing Order 2020-4

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The President has declared a national public health emergency, and the Governor of the State of Oregon has declared a public health emergency throughout the state, both in response to the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other health authorities have advised people to take precautions to reduce the exposure to COVID-19 and to slow the spread of the disease.

In particular, the CDC currently recommends that people attempt to keep an appropriate physical distance between themselves and other people. This technique, known as social distancing, is especially important for those individuals with a higher health risk (e.g., those over 60 years of age, those with underlying health conditions, and those who are pregnant). The CDC currently recommends that employers attempt to minimize exposure between employees and the public and to consider the public health and safety when scheduling group or public events.

Therefore, in order to protect public health, and reduce the size of public gatherings and unnecessary travel, the United States District Court for the District of Oregon issues the following order, effective immediately:

1. All civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials scheduled to begin before April 26, 2020, are CONTINUED (i.e., postponed) pending further order of the Court.
2. All grand jury proceedings scheduled before April 26, 2020, are CONTINUED, unless otherwise ordered by the Chief Judge.
3. Unless otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge, all other civil and criminal matters scheduled for an in-Court appearance before April 26, 2020, including any associated deadlines, are CONTINUED, unless all parties and the Presiding Judge agree to resolve the matters without oral argument, or via telephone or video teleconferencing where practical. This continuance applies to the District of Oregon Reentry Court proceedings.
4. Due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the above-referenced public health considerations associated with criminal jury trials and grand jury proceedings, the time period of the continuances implemented by this Standing Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). The Court finds that the ends of justice served by ordering these continuances outweighs the best interest of the public and each defendant's right to speedy indictment or trial. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances may warrant.

5. Case-by-case exceptions to the continuances provided herein may be ordered for non-jury matters by the Presiding Judge after consultation with counsel.
6. This order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument.
7. The Portland, Eugene, Medford, and Pendleton Courthouses, as well as the District Clerk's Office, Probation Office, and Pretrial Services Office shall remain open as usual unless otherwise ordered by the Court.
8. Staff in the Clerk's Office will be available by telephone, mail will be received, and Intake Counters will remain open. Electronic filing in CM/ECF remains mandatory for all filers with the exception of pro se litigants. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing court services while following all applicable public health guidelines.

The Court will vacate or amend this Standing Order as necessary and appropriate.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DATED this 13 day of March, 2020.

  
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MARCO HERNÁNDEZ  
CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE