

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

IN RE: UPDATED GUIDANCE TO COURT OPERATIONS
UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY
COVID-19

**GENERAL ORDER
No. 2**

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the Court issued a General Order re: Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 and now additional guidance about stemming the spread of COVID-19 is available, including strong advice to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people.

WHEREAS local detention facilities have imposed several COVID-19 related restrictions that severely reduce the ability of pretrial detainees to have a meaningful consultation with legal counsel; and the Bureau of Prisons imposed several COVID-19 related restrictions that suspend most inmate facility transfers for 30 days.

NOW THEREFORE, in order to implement the new public health guidance and to respond to the COVID-19 related restrictions imposed by the Bureau of Prisons and local detention facilities, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that:

1. All criminal proceedings are continued until April 16, 2020:

- a. To the extent practicable and with the defendant's consent, essential criminal proceedings, including initial appearances, arraignments, and detention hearings, may be held via videoconference, as such facilities become available.
- b. All existing pretrial deadlines are continued until April 16, 2020. Hearings on pretrial motions will also be continued, to be rescheduled by the presiding judge.
- c. All other criminal proceedings, including pleas, sentencings, and hearings on the revocation of supervised release, scheduled to begin before April 16, 2020, are continued and will be rescheduled by the presiding judge.

FILED 3/17/20
KATE M. EGGARTY
JUDGMENT ENTD KM
DEPUTY CLERK _____

- d. The Court finds that the time of the continuances implemented by this order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice are served by ordering the continuances and outweigh the best interests of the public and of the criminal defendants in a speedy trial under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Absent further order of the Court or any individual judge, the period of exclusion shall be from March 17, 2020, to April 16, 2020. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances may warrant.
2. Grand jury proceedings are now continued from today until April 16, 2020.
3. All Central Violations Bureau or petty offense hearings are continued until April 16, 2020.
4. Exceptions to this order may be approved by the presiding judge, if special circumstances so require.
5. The General Order entered by this Court on March 13, 2020 remains in effect, except for changes addressed in this Order.
6. The Court will vacate or amend this order no later than April 16, 2020.

Dated in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 17, 2020, at 11:15a.m.



JOHN R. TUNHEIM
Chief Judge
United States District Court