



## United States District Court

### District of Minnesota

John R. Tunheim, Chief Judge

Kate Fogarty, Clerk of Court

612-664-5000

Warren E. Burger Federal  
Building and U.S.  
Courthouse  
316 North Robert Street  
Suite 100  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Edward J. Devitt U.S.  
Courthouse and Federal  
Building  
118 South Mill Street  
Suite 212  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Gerald W. Heaney  
Federal Building and U.S.  
Courthouse and  
Customhouse  
515 West First Street  
Suite 417  
Duluth, MN 55802

Diana E. Murphy United  
States Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street  
Suite 202  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

November 24, 2020

## NEWS RELEASE

### **United States District Court for the District of Minnesota COVID-19 Update – Update to in-person proceedings**

Minneapolis, MN – The Court continues to follow strict protocols to ensure the health and safety of all visitors to the federal courthouses. The following updates to the court operations under the exigent circumstances created by COVID-19 are hereby implemented:

For criminal proceedings and trials:

- Effective, Monday, November 30, 2020, all criminal proceedings, that cannot be conducted using videoconferencing, or telephone conferencing if videoconferencing is not reasonably available, are continued until January 31, 2021, unless the presiding judge determines that an in-person hearing is necessary.
- No in-person hearings may be held if the hearing involves multiple parties, multiple witnesses, or if the hearing is expected to be lengthy, unless the presiding judge consults with the Chief Judge.
- Attorneys who have an in-person hearing scheduled to occur before January 31, 2021, should contact the presiding judge's courtroom deputy for guidance.
- Any jury trial currently in progress may continue through completion. No new criminal trials may commence before February 1, 2021.

For civil proceedings and trials:

- Effective, Monday, November 30, 2020, all civil hearings or trials that cannot be conducted using videoconferencing or telephone conferencing are continued through January 31, 2021.
- No in-person civil trials may commence before February 1, 2021. All civil jury trial-specific deadlines may be continued as ordered by the presiding judge.



Clerk's Office:

- The Clerk's Office intake desk will be closed to the public through January 31, 2021.
- The Clerk's Office will remain open to assist attorneys and the public by telephone, email, and online chat from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- The Clerk's Office will continue to not accept cash payments; persons needing to make payment may do so by check, money order, or online (where applicable).
- The Clerk's Office will continue to accept electronic filings in civil and criminal cases through electronic case filing system (CM/ECF) and online payments through [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov).
- Members of the public may submit paper documents or payments by check or money order in locked drop boxes at the courthouses in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

This order vacates General Order No. 18, entered on August 27, 2020, General Order No. 20, entered on November 4, 2020, and General Order No. 21, entered on November 5, 2020; General Order Nos. 7-8, 10-13, and 15, and 19 remain in effect, except for any changes addressed in General Order No. 22. Please review the most recent order for more specific details [HERE](#).

The Court continues to monitor the most current statements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as all communications disseminated by the Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts (AO), regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Court is following recommended guidelines from public health officials and preparedness guidance from the AO, including requiring face coverings for anyone entering the courthouse, cancelling or postponing all non-essential events and travel, increasing sanitation efforts in all courtrooms and public spaces, and continuing to provide remote working options for staff.

Additional questions can be directed to Public Information Officer, Rebecca Parks at [Rebecca.Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov).

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