

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
ARCHULETA, LA PLATA, AND SAN JUAN COUNTIES

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-7

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**ORDER REINSTATING JURY TRIALS**

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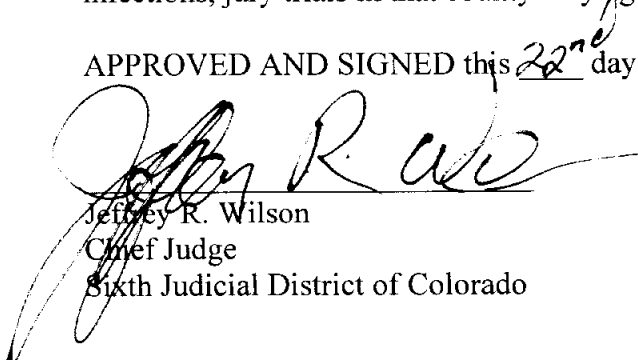
In September of 2021, the rate of new COVID-19 infections in La Plata County, as reported by San Juan Basin Health, exceeded 300 cases per 100,000 persons over a seven-day period. This increasing rate of COVID-19 cases was determined by the undersigned to be a public health emergency requiring the suspension of jury trials in La Plata County. The undersigned therefore issued Administrative Order 2021-20 which effectively suspended jury trials throughout the Sixth Judicial District. In January of 2022, the rate of new COVID-19 infections in La Plata County, as reported by San Juan Basin Health, exceeded 2,200 cases per 100,000 persons over a seven-day period and the positivity rate of COVID-19 testing results reached 29%. Archuleta and San Juan County also reported dangerously high COVID-19 testing positivity rates, as well as extremely high rates of new infections.

Since the middle of January 2022, the positivity rates for COVID-19 tests and rates of new COVID-19 infections have declined continually and significantly. As of February 21, 2022, the rate of new infections of COVID-19 over a seven-day period in La Plata County, as reported by San Juan Basin Health, was 134.8 cases per 100,000 persons. The rate in Archuleta County was 82.3 cases per 100,000 persons. In La Plata County, the positivity rate of tests for COVID-19 has fallen to 6%. In Archuleta County, the test positivity rate has declined from 34% in January of 2022 to 8% on February 21, 2022.

For the foregoing reasons, the Court finds that the immediate public health emergency is abating and orders that effective March 7, 2022, the prohibition against holding jury trials as ordered in Administrative Order 2021-20 as extended by Administrative Order 2022-1 is suspended.

The Court orders that effective March 7, 2022, jury trials will resume in the Sixth Judicial District. Should any county in the Sixth Judicial District experience a significant increase in new infections, jury trials in that county may again be suspended.

APPROVED AND SIGNED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2022.

  
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Jeffrey R. Wilson  
Chief Judge  
Sixth Judicial District of Colorado