

Chief Judge, Twelfth Judicial District
**12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT-
COVID-19 ORDER
REGARDING COURT
OPERATIONS EFFECTIVE
JUNE 1, 2021**



**CHIEF JUDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
2021-01**

The Chief Judge believes the time has come to lessen some restrictions on court proceedings. In doing so, the Chief Judge has considered the public health risk posed by the Novel Corona Virus/COVID-19 and the advisories and orders from the Centers for Disease Control, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and local public health departments. The Chief Judge has considered the existence of safe and effective vaccines, increased immunity rates, reduced case numbers and the onset of warmer weather. The Chief Judge has also considered the need for the Courts to continue to conduct business in both a safe and effective manner.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and the directives found in the Order Regarding COVID-19 and Operation of Colorado State Courts, issued by Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan B. Coats on March 16, 2020, March 20, 2020, April 16, 2020, May 5, 2020, June 15, 2020 and the Order issued by Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Brian Boatright on May 6, 2021, this Order amends or supersedes CJAO 2020-03, CJAO 2020-06, CJAO 2020-09, it is hereby ORDERED that the following CJAO applies to all courthouses in the 12th Judicial District.

1. **General Information:**

People who meet the following criteria are asked **not to appear** at the courthouses. Anyone meeting the below criteria should contact their attorney or the court to reschedule their case, request to appear by remote means, or receive further instructions. Similarly, people who

meet the following criteria are asked **not to appear** at probation offices. Anyone meeting the below criteria should contact their probation officer to receive further instructions. The criteria include:

- a. Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 and who does not have written verification that the person has received a subsequent test confirming that person is currently virus free; or
- b. Anyone who has been in direct contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the preceding 14 days; or
- c. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms such as a fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Pursuant to an existing Order from Chief Justice Boatright, people coming to the courthouses and probation offices **must wear face coverings**.

2. **Operations:**

The Clerks' Offices counters will be open from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except legal holidays. Clerks will be accessible until 5:00 p.m. each day via telephone or email to address any court related matters.

3. **In-Person Court Proceedings:**

- a. Each judicial officer will determine the type of hearings that are to be held in person.
- b. Regarding any in-person court proceedings, courtroom capacity shall be limited to existing **applicable local public-health regulations**,

absent express approval from the Chief Judge to exceed this limitation. At least **six feet social distancing** shall always be maintained, in accordance with guidance from state and local public health agencies and may be subject to change if those guidelines are modified, clarified, or additional guidelines are instituted.

- c. All participants appearing for in-person proceedings **shall wear face coverings in accordance with the existing Chief Justice Mask Directive.** A judicial officer may exercise their discretion to determine whether and under what circumstances a face covering can be removed by a participant on a case-by-case basis.
- d. Judicial Officers are encouraged to continue to appropriately utilize electronic means to permit the remote appearance of counsel, parties, witnesses, and other persons interested in the proceeding, which is subject to feasibility, available resources, and orders of the judicial officer.

4. **Jury Trials:**

CJAO 2020-08, or any future version if amended, controls jury trials in the Twelfth Judicial District. CJAO 2020-08 is available on the court's website, along with detailed information for anyone who receives a jury summons.

5. **Probation Services:**

Probation clients shall be supervised in a modified manner as directed by the Chief Probation Officer. Services may be provided in person or by video/telephone whenever feasible. Probation Offices shall be open from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except legal holidays. Staff will be accessible until 5:00 p.m. each day via telephone or email to address any probation related matters.

6. **Miscellaneous Court Services:** The services listed below will continue to operate on an in-person basis, however, they are encouraged to conduct as much business remotely as possible:
- a. Self-Help Center
 - b. Collections
 - c. Family Court Facilitator
 - d. Any Court Ordered Mediation

The Chief Judge will continue to monitor available information and recommendations from national, state, and local public health organizations, and this CJAO 2021-01 may be revised or extended as deemed necessary.

Dated this 1st day of June 2021, this Order is Effective Immediately.

BY THE COURT:



Michael A. Gonzales
Chief Judge, 12th Judicial District