

Chief Judge, Twelfth Judicial District

**12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT-
ORDER SUSPENDING JURY
TRIALS THROUGH
FEBRUARY 11, 2022**



**CHIEF JUDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
2022-01
Amended 01-24-2022**

As reflected in prior Administrative Orders, the Twelfth Judicial District has monitored, and adjusted to, changing circumstances related to the worldwide COVID- 19 pandemic. As widely reported, the Omicron variant is driving a new and dramatic surge of coronavirus infections. The surge is here in the 12th Judicial District and expected to endure for some time.

On January 10, 2022, all jury trials in the 12th Judicial District were suspended until January 28, 2022. At that time, due to the increasing number of cases in the 12th Judicial District a suspension was warranted. The CDPHE prepares statewide tables of Two-Week Cumulative Incidence rates as well as the current Epidemic Curve. These tables are updated daily and can be viewed through the CDPHE website at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/incidence-epidemic-curve>. All six counties in the San Luis Valley continue to show a “very high” incidence rate. Additionally, the Current Epidemic Curve shows that the San Luis Valley has shown “Elevated incidence growth” for the most recent two-week period (January 7, 2022-January 20, 2022). According to the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership website there are currently 667 “newly reported” cases, with a regional One-Week Positivity Rate of 20.48%. In comparison, on January 7, 2022, according to the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership website there were 276 “active” cases, with a regional One-Week Positivity Rate of 12.86%.

There continues to be elevated and concerning growth in the number of active cases. In the interest of protecting the health and safety of jurors, court staff, attorneys, and litigants, it is necessary and appropriate to suspend jury trials. At this point the Chief Judge has determined that a jury panel cannot be safely empaneled in the 12th Judicial District until after February 11, 2022.

The provisions of this Administrative Order 2022-01 shall apply to all civil, D&N, and criminal jury trials held in the 12th Judicial District.

Pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and Chief Justice Order dated July 24, 2020; it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

The Courts of the Twelfth Judicial District hereby suspend the summoning of jurors for jury trials set through **February 11, 2022**. Any persons with a summons to report for jury duty during this time period are not required to appear.

The Jury Commissioner shall continue to summon jurors for any jury trials scheduled to begin on or after February 14, 2022. Jurors who have a jury summons for a date to appear commencing on or after February 14, 2022, should continue to monitor the Court's website for updates.

This order is subject to review and revision in accordance with ongoing pandemic trends and public health guidelines. I reserve the right to modify, revise, or vacate this order at any time to meet the health and safety needs of the public. This order is effective January 24, 2022.

Dated this 24th day of January 2022.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Gonzales', written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Gonzales
Chief Judge, 12th Judicial District