

Chief Judge, Twelfth Judicial District  
**12<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT-  
 THIRD AMENDED  
 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
 REGARDING SUSPENSION  
 OF JURY TRIALS**



**CHIEF JUDGE  
 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
 2020-08  
 Amended 10-20-2020  
 Amended 11-10-2020  
 Amended 01-01-2021**

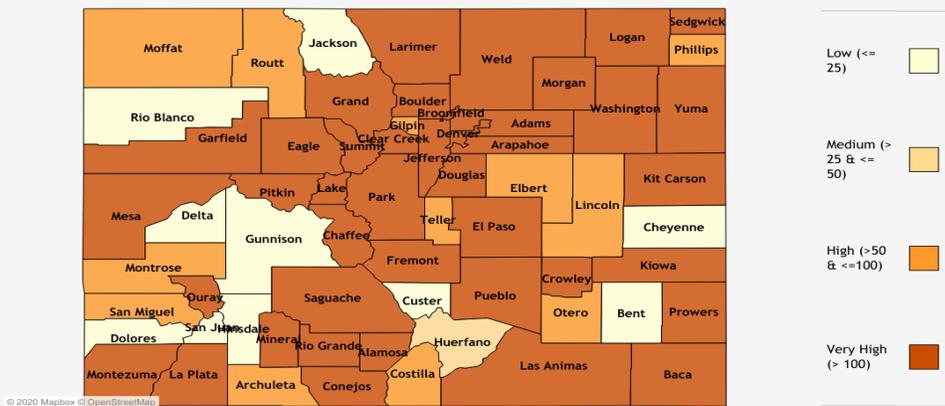
This amended order supplements the Court’s Administrative Order 2020-03, 2020-05 and 2020-06 as it relates to jury trials. Except as modified here, Administrative Orders 2020-03, 2020-05 and 2020-06 remain in full force and effect.

**JURY TRIALS**

On October 20, 2020, all jury trials in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District were suspended until December 1, 2020. This suspension was warranted because of the increased number of cases in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The CDPHE prepares statewide tables of two-week cumulative incident rates and 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>. Five of the six counties in the San Luis Valley show a “very high” incidence rate and one county shows a “high” incidence rate. More importantly the Current Epidemic Curve shows that the San Luis Valley has shown “Elevated incidence growth” for the most recent two-week period (October 5, 2020 – October 18, 2020), as shown on the tables below.

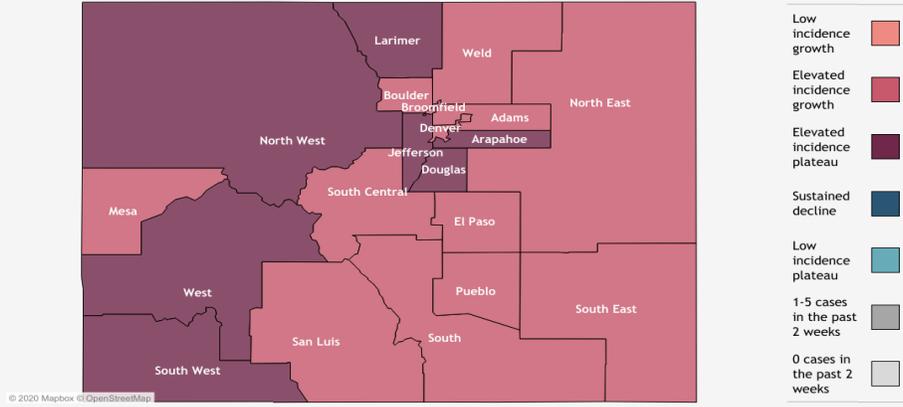
**Two-Week Cumulative Incidence Rate**

The Two-Week Cumulative Incidence Rate includes new cases reported in the past two weeks Oct 5, 2020 - Oct 18, 2020 per 100,000 people. The rate describes recent incidence of COVID-19 infection to capture the potential burden of currently ill people who may be infectious and/or accessing healthcare.



## Current Epidemic Curve

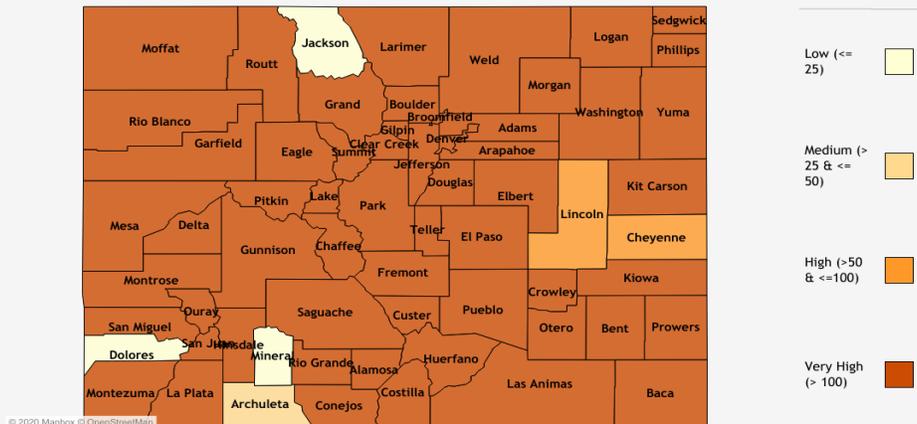
The **Current Epidemic Curve** status for each region provides a detailed view into the burden of illness in each region, and the trajectory of new illness. Regions are categorized according to the total number of new cases in the past 2 weeks Oct 5, 2020 - Oct 18, 2020 and the current day's change in daily case counts. Regions with elevated incidence have had more than 10 new cases per 100,000 in the past two weeks.



As evidenced by the most recent statistics outlined by the tables below, there continues to be “elevated growth” of the disease in the San Luis Valley. Once again, five of the six counties in the San Luis Valley show a “very high” incidence rate. The Current Epidemic Curve shows that the San Luis Valley has remained at the “Elevated incidence growth” for the most recent two week period (October 25, 2020 – November 7, 2020).

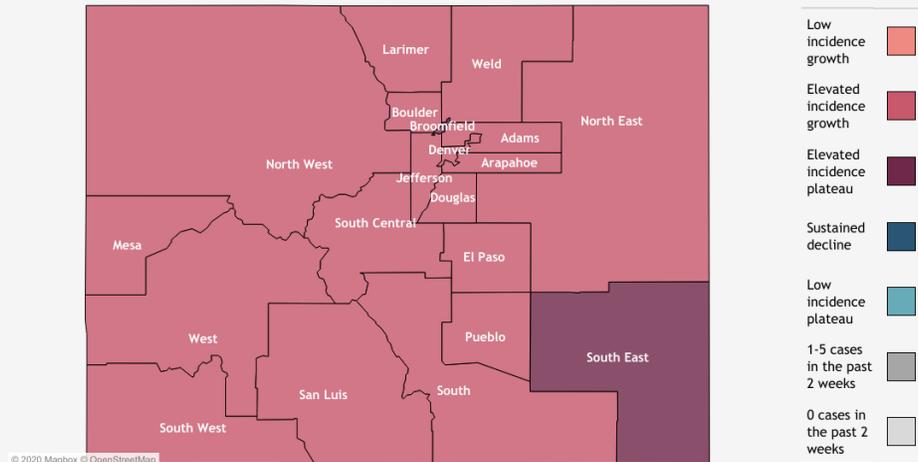
## Two-Week Cumulative Incidence Rate

The **Two-Week Cumulative Incidence Rate** includes new cases reported in the past two weeks Oct 25, 2020 - Nov 7, 2020 per 100,000 people. The rate describes recent incidence of COVID-19 infection to capture the potential burden of currently ill people who may be infectious and/or accessing healthcare.



## Current Epidemic Curve

The **Current Epidemic Curve** status for each region provides a detailed view into the burden of illness in each region, and the trajectory of new illness. Regions are categorized according to the total number of new cases in the past 2 weeks Oct 25, 2020 - Nov 7, 2020 and the current day's change in daily case counts. Regions with elevated incidence have had more than 10 new cases per 100,000 in the past two weeks.



As of December 31, 2020, all six counties in the San Luis Valley show a “Very high” two-week cumulative incidence rate. The Current Epidemic Curve shows that the San Luis Valley, along with the rest of the State of Colorado, has shown “Sustained decline” for the most recent two-week period (December 17, 2020 – December 30, 2020). There clearly exists an ongoing public health issue related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the continued high number of cases and the current level of the positivity rate it is reasonable and appropriate to extend the jury trial suspension in the 12th Judicial District. This Order incorporates the finding and recitations of all previous orders regarding COVID-19.

In consideration of the current circumstances statewide, as well as specific to the San Luis Valley, it has been determined that it is in the best interest of protecting the health and safety of jurors, court staff, attorneys, and litigants, **to suspend all jury trials in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District through March 1, 2021**. At this point the Chief Judge has determined that a jury panel cannot be safely empaneled in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District until March 1, 2021. No person will be summoned to report for jury service in this district before March 1, 2021.

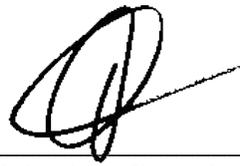
This Order is issued pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and Chief Justice Order dated July 24, 2020. The provisions of this amended Administrative

Order 2020-08 shall apply to all civil, D&N, and criminal jury trials held in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. All previously imposed aspects of this order shall remain in full force and effect.

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 amended order is effective January 1, 2021.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2021.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' and 'G' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

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Michael A. Gonzales  
Chief Judge, 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District