

Chief Judge, Twelfth Judicial District

**12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT-
ORDER SUSPENDING JURY
TRIALS-EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 10, 2022**



**CHIEF JUDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
2022-01**

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.

Effective January 10, 2022, all jury trials in the 12th Judicial District are hereby suspended until January 28, 2022. Due to the increased number of cases in the 12th Judicial District a suspension is 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 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 (December 23, 2021-January 5, 2022). According to the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership website there are currently 276 “active” cases, with a regional One-Week Positivity Rate of 12.86%. In comparison, on December 28, 2021, according to the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership website there were 65 “active” cases, with a regional One-Week Positivity Rate of 5.08%.

Clearly there has been an elevated and concerning growth in the number of positive 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 January 28, 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 **January 28, 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 January 31, 2022. Jurors who have a jury summons for a date to appear commencing on or after January 31, 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 10, 2022.

Dated this 7th 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