

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-1

ORDER SUSPENDING THE RESUMPTION OF JURY TRIALS IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Chief Judge in the Sixth Judicial District continuously monitors the rate of COVID-19 infection in Archuleta, La Plata, and San Juan Counties. In Administrative Order 2021-27 issued on December 10, 2021, the Chief Judge determined that it was safe to resume jury trials in La Plata County and scheduled jury trials to resume beginning January 6, 2022. On December 18, 2021, testing revealed that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 was detected in a positive COVID-19 test of a La Plata County resident.¹ On December 19, 2021, San Juan Basin Health reported nine positive tests for COVID-19, a test positivity rate of 7% and a seven-day incidence rate of 203.1 cases per 100,000 people. On December 28, 2021, San Juan Basin Health reported 114 positive tests for COVID-19. On December 29, 2021, San Juan Basin Health reported 87 positive tests for COVID-19, a test positivity rate of 17% and a seven-day incidence rate of 494.2 cases per 100,000 people.²

Additionally, both Archuleta and San Juan Counties are experiencing similar increases in the rates of COVID-19 infections. On December 19, 2021, Archuleta County reported one positive test for COVID-19, a test positivity rate of 6% on December 19, 2021, and a seven-day incidence rate of 142.1 cases per 100,000 people. On December 29, 2021, those numbers had increased to 12 positive tests for COVID-19, a test positivity rate of 14% and a seven-day incidence rate of 306.7 cases per 100,000 people.³ As of the writing of this order, San Juan County has a seven-day incidence rate of 980.4 cases per 100,000 people.⁴

Due to the extremely rapid growth in the rate of new COVID-19 infections in the Sixth Judicial District and the reported increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant, along with the reported ability of the Omicron variant to evade the immunity to COVID-19 of persons who have previously contracted COVID-19 or of vaccinated individuals,⁵ the Court finds that it is currently not safe to allow the numbers of citizens into the hallways and courtrooms of the Sixth Judicial District necessary to conduct jury trials.

¹ See the San Juan Basin Health COVID-19 Data Dashboard, [SJBPH Data Dashboard - San Juan Basin Public Health \(sjbpublichealth.org\)](https://sjbpublichealth.org).

² Id.

³ See the San Juan Basin Health COVID-19 Data Dashboard.

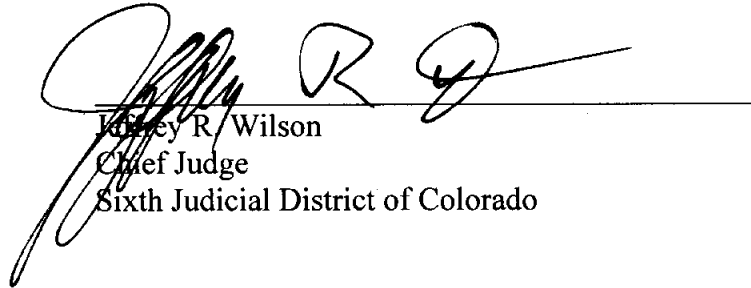
⁴ Colorado County COVID-19 Status, <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial-dashboard>.

⁵ See the CDC's [Potential Rapid Increase of Omicron Variant Infections in the United States](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/forecasting/mathematical-modeling-outbreak.html#ref04), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/forecasting/mathematical-modeling-outbreak.html#ref04>.

In order to protect the health of the public at large, jurors, litigants, and staff of the Sixth Judicial District, it is ordered that no jury trials shall be conducted in the Sixth Judicial District. This order is being issued pursuant to the authority granted to the Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial District by the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court in his Updated Order Regarding COVID-19 and the Operation of Colorado State Courts dated May 6, 2021.

This order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further order of the Chief Judge.

APPROVED AND SIGNED this 3rd day of January, 2022.



Jeffrey R. Wilson
Chief Judge
Sixth Judicial District of Colorado