



**SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF COLORADO
ADAMS AND BROOMFIELD COUNTIES**

**ADDENDUM TO NINTH AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER COVID-19 EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 23, 2020
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AND ORDER**

Issued January 3rd, 2022

ADDENDUM to 2020-01 A9

This Addendum amends the Orders previously issued by this Court and former Chief Judge Anderson.

The current COVID positivity rates are over 23% in Adams County and 19% in in the City and County of Broomfield.

As widely reported by local and national media, we are experiencing an alarming and continuing rise over the last week in COVID positivity rates due to outbreak of the Omicron variant. We have been informed by our local health department (Tri County Health), that we have not yet reached the summit of the current spike since many members of the community had significant social contact with others on December 25th and December 31st, 2021, and/or January 1st, 2022.

Given these unprecedented high positivity rates and the contagious nature of the Omicron variant, this Court finds that the positivity rate will very likely go even higher. Thus, this Court finds that we cannot safely assemble jurors for our current schedule of trials set from January 3rd through January 28th, 2022. (This Court will consider if there are any exceptions, that due to unique and compelling circumstances, are cases that need to be tried within the next 30 days. If so, the trial court must find that this exception can safely go forward based on an individual trial plan that incorporates strict social distancing and strict masking procedures. Any requests for an exception must be addressed on an individual basis. Parties seeking an individual exception must provide notice to the trial court and opposing counsel within 48 hours of this Order.)

Therefore, the Court Orders that jury trials (absent any approved individual exceptions) in Adams and Broomfield Counties set to commence on January 3rd through January 28th, 2022, be postponed.

The Court is also ordering that all persons in our two courthouses will wear masks

at all times except when they are alone in a room with the door closed.

The Court has also asked that judicial officers review their non-trial dockets and determine, 1. What hearings can be effectively done by webex, and, 2. How to accomplish effective social distancing for cases that are in person hearings. The social distancing requirement is a buffer of a minimum of 6 feet between all persons in public areas including, but not limited to, the courtrooms and the First Appearance Center.

This Court recognizes that the decisions within this Order may well result in more backlogs for trials. However, given the highly contagious nature of the Omicron variant (it now accounts for 91% of new COVID diagnosis in Colorado) the Court is compelled to take these steps to help protect the public, prospective jurors, courthouse litigants, courthouse employees, and counsel.

SO ORDERED this 3rd day of January 3, 2022.

By the COURT,



Don Quick

Chief Judge, 17th Judicial District