

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED
BY COVID-19**

**ADM-1
ORDER 20-4**

ORDER

This Standing Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have officially declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic. In response to the spread of COVID-19, President Trump declared a national emergency, and Governor Sununu declared a state of emergency.

The CDC and other health authorities have advised people to take precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and to slow the spread of the disease. In particular, the CDC is recommending that people attempt to keep physical distance between themselves and other people. This technique, known as social distancing, is especially important for people who have a higher health risk should they contract the disease. The CDC is also recommending employers attempt to minimize exposure between employees and the public and to consider the public health and safety when scheduling group or public events. Additionally, there is recent evidence indicating that COVID-19 may be spread by persons who are asymptomatic.

Therefore, in order to protect public health, and in order to reduce the size of public gatherings and unnecessary travel, the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire issues the following order, effective immediately:

1. This order supersedes the court's order on Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 dated March 12, 2020.
2. The Rudman Courthouse will be closed to the public for one week, until March 23, 2020. This week of closure will permit the court to pause operations, assess the situation, and make necessary adjustments.

3. All district court hearings scheduled before March 23, 2020, are continued.
4. The court will attempt to schedule initial appearances, arraignment and detention hearings by video conference with the defendant's consent until March 23, 2020.
5. Individual judges may continue to hold hearings, conferences, and bench trials by video/telephonic conference in their discretion.
6. Attorneys and pro se parties may continue to file documents with the court electronically through CM/ECF, or in paper by using the court's outside filing depository behind the Cleveland Federal Building.
7. The court will take necessary measures to address emergency matters. Attorneys and pro se parties may request a matter receive immediate attention by motion or by contacting the clerk's office at 603-225-1477.
8. All court employees will telework during regular business hours and conduct any specific other duties at the courthouse as required.
9. All civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before May 1, 2020, are continued.
10. All grand jury proceedings scheduled before May 1, 2020, are continued.
11. Due to the court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the above-referenced public health considerations associated with criminal jury trials and grand jury proceedings, the time period of the continuances implemented by this Standing Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). The court finds that the ends of justice served by ordering these continuances outweighs the best interest of the public and each defendant's right to speedy indictment or trial.
12. Court hosted naturalization events scheduled before May 1, 2020, are cancelled. This order does not, however, impact the authority of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to conduct administrative naturalization ceremonies.

SO ORDERED.

Date: March 15, 2020



Landya B. McCafferty
Chief Judge