

STATE OF COLORADO
7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DELTA, GUNNISON, HINSDALE, MONTROSE, OURAY & SAN MIGUEL COUNTIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-17 RE: LIMITED SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS IN THE 7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

COVID-19 remains a highly contagious and deadly disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains up to date data concerning COVID-19 in each county in Colorado (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>). As of October 28, 2021, two counties in the 7th Judicial District have a seven-day positivity rate over 10%. Delta county has a positivity rate of 11.07% and Montrose county has a positivity rate of 11.92%. The CDC reports the risk of transmission in Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, Hinsdale, and Ouray counties is “high” which is the highest risk category. Additionally, the regional hospitals in Montrose and Delta counties are reporting full intensive care units and staffing shortages.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Chief Judge of the Seventh 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, and by Chief Justice Directive 95-1, the Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District has determined that due to the current positivity rates, risk of transmission, and the current strain on regional hospitals, the District will suspend jury trials in Delta and Montrose Counties to protect the health of litigants, witnesses, jurors, the public and court staff.

On a weekly basis, the Chief Judge will evaluate the COVID-19 positivity rate, the increase or decrease in the positivity rate, the risk of transmission, and the capacity of regional hospitals for counties in the 7th Judicial District. Each Wednesday the Chief Judge will determine which counties in the District will have jury trials suspended or will be able to conduct jury trials the following week. Information will be posted each Wednesday by 5:00 p.m. on the Colorado Judicial Branch website at https://www.courts.state.co.us/Jury/District/Index.cfm?District_ID=7 under the “Announcements” heading.

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

Dated and effective this the 28th day of October 2021.

BY THE COURT:



J. Steven Patrick
Chief Judge

XC: 7th JD Judges
7th JD Clerks of Court