

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

In re: Court Operations Under
The Exigent Circumstances
Created by COVID-19 and
Related Coronavirus Health Conditions

Administrative Order

20-AO-021

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

This administrative order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in the Eastern District of Michigan. On March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Michigan declared a State of Emergency after two residents have tested presumptive positive for COVID-19.

To combat the spread of the disease, given the severity of the risk posed to the public, Court staff, and other Court agencies, and considering the public health recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the following protocol will be implemented within the Eastern District of Michigan:

1. All civil and criminal matters scheduled for in-court appearance before any district or magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Michigan are postponed pending further order of the Court. Questions concerning filing deadlines should be directed to the assigned judge.
2. All grand jury proceedings in this District are postponed pending further order of this Court.
3. With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the recommendations from the above public health organizations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the time period of the postponements implemented by this administrative order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the postponements outweigh the best interest of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).
4. Case-by-case exceptions to the postponements may be ordered for non-jury matters at the discretion of the Court after consultation with counsel.
5. Criminal matters before magistrate judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings (and appeals to district judges from detention orders), and the issuance of search warrants, shall continue to take place in the ordinary course.


6. This order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument or handled by telephone or video conference.

The World Health Organization has declared that COVID-19 qualifies as a global pandemic having spread across more than 100 countries with more than 1,000 confirmed cases in the United States. Considering the spread of the diseases, the courthouses in the Eastern District of Michigan will remain open with limited services available. The public is encouraged to use online Court resources or contact the Court by telephone.

This order will remain in effect until further order of the Court.

IT IS ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT:


Denise Page Hood
Chief Judge