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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 14, 2022

PRESIDING JUDGE ERIC C. TAYLOR AMENDS ORDER TO EXTEND LAST-DAY DEADLINES FOR CRIMINAL TRIALS AND PRELIMINARY HEARINGS AS COVID INFECTIONS, HOSPITALIZATIONS SURGE IN LA COUNTY

Civil Division Prioritizing Virtual Mandatory Settlement Conferences to Facilitate Case Resolution

Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor today extended last-day deadlines for Criminal trials, preliminary hearings and other Criminal matters to January 28, 2022 as the Omicron variant continues to infect LA County residents at unprecedented rates. The amended General Order, issued pursuant to the emergency powers granted to him by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye under Government Code section 68115, will continue to reduce foot traffic in courthouses as hospitalizations and deaths continue to escalate this week and Omicron transmission causes record numbers of COVID cases throughout the county.

"With the troubling number of COVID hospitalizations increasing to more than 4,000 in LA County, the Court remains committed to prioritizing the health and safety of court users, justice partners, judicial officers and employees, while continuing to provide safe access to justice," Presiding Judge Taylor said. "Extending certain Criminal deadlines under this amended Order will help us to achieve this balance. Today's amended Order provides scheduling flexibility to judicial officers and reduces the number of attorneys, witnesses, jurors and others in our courthouses.

-MORE-

**AMENDED GENERAL ORDER
2-2-2-2**

Together we must do all that we can to keep each other safe as we move toward the other side of this winter surge.”

The LA County Department of Public Health reported 45,076 new cases yesterday.

The Order, which is attached, extends deadlines as follows:

CRIMINAL

- (i) Extends the time provided by section 859b of the Penal Code for the holding of a preliminary examination and the defendant’s right to release from 10 court days to not more than 30 court days, from **January 7, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.
- (ii) Extends the time period provided in section 1382 of the Penal Code for the holding of a criminal trial by not more than 30 days, applicable only to cases in which the original or previously extended statutory deadline otherwise would expire from **January 5, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.
- (iii) Extends by 90 calendar days post-conviction progress reports set on **January 5, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.
- (iv) Extends by 90 calendar days, unless statutorily required to be held sooner and the defendant does not consent to a continuance, out-of-custody misdemeanor pretrial hearings set on **January 5, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.

The extensions for certain Juvenile Dependency matters issued in General Order [2021-GEN-037-00](#) remain in place until January 28, 2022.

The Order also states that in accordance with [General Order 2021-GEN-023-00](#), all persons – regardless of vaccination status – are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while in a courthouse. Persons whose disabilities preclude them from wearing face coverings compliant with the guidance are urged to seek an accommodation under [Rule 1.100](#) of the California Rules of Court in advance of their court appearance or appointment. A list of ADA liaisons is available at <http://www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx>.

-MORE-

AMENDED GENERAL ORDER
3-3-3-3

In the interest of safeguarding the well-being of court users, persons seeking services from the Clerk's Office and court support services are encouraged to schedule appointments. For telephone or video assistance, or [to schedule an appointment](#), the telephone number for each courthouse is listed at the courthouse entry and posted on the Court's website, www.lacourt.org.

During the current surge, Civil judicial officers are prioritizing virtual Mandatory Settlement Conferences to facilitate case resolution. The Court also is encouraging attorneys to discuss whether it is critical that their case proceed now to a jury trial and, if so, inquire with the department about options for spacing people around the courtroom as much as possible and whether larger courtrooms are available for jury selection.

Presiding Judge Taylor also strongly encourages litigants and attorneys to appear remotely for their hearing using the Court's LACourtConnect system. To register to appear remotely, visit lacourt.org/lacc/ to learn more and start the registration process. Video appearances are strongly encouraged.

For more information, follow the Court on Twitter ([@LASuperiorCourt](https://twitter.com/LASuperiorCourt)) and visit the Court's website (LACourt.org).

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FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

JAN 14 2022

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk
 By *Rizalinda Mina*, Deputy
 Rizalinda Mina

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
 PRESIDING JUDGE RE COVID-19
 PANDEMIC

AMENDED GENERAL ORDER

As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles shatters previous levels, many entities struggle as employees and others are quarantined after exposure to COVID-19. The Court has not been spared this challenge and now amends its General Order to continue statutory deadlines for preliminary hearings as a result of the high proportion of inmates from the Los Angeles County jail who are quarantined. In its continuing efforts to balance its obligation to maintain access to justice with its commitment to safeguard the well-being of court users in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **SUPERIOR COURT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Clerk's Office and Self-Help Center Appointments:

In the interest of safeguarding the well-being of court users, persons seeking services from the Clerk's Office, court support services, and/or the Self-Help Centers are encouraged to schedule appointments. For telephone or video assistance, or [to schedule an appointment](#), the telephone number for each courthouse is listed at the courthouse entry and posted on the Court's website, www.lacourt.org.

2. Face Coverings:

In accordance with [General Order 2021-GEN-023-00](#), all persons – regardless of vaccination status – are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while

1 in a courthouse. Persons whose disabilities preclude them from wearing face coverings
2 compliant with the Guidance, are urged to seek an accommodation under [Rule 1.100](#) of
3 the California Rules of Court in advance of their court appearance or appointment.

4 **3. Judicial Emergency Order Continuances:**

5 a. Criminal Division

- 6 i. Pursuant to the authority granted by the [March 30, 2020 Statewide Emergency](#)
7 [Order](#) issued by the Honorable Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California
8 and Chair of the Judicial Council, which the Court implemented in its [General](#)
9 [Order No. 2020-GEN-007-00](#) issued on April 2, 2020, and **until January 28,**
10 **2022**, the Court extends the time provided by section 859b of the Penal Code for
11 the holding of a preliminary examination and the defendant's right to release from
12 10 court days to not more than 30 court days.
- 13 ii. The Court extends the time period provided in section 1382 of the Penal Code for
14 the holding of a criminal trial by not more than 30 days, applicable only to cases
15 in which the original or previously extended statutory deadline otherwise would
16 expire from **January 5, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.
- 17 iii. The Court extends by 90 calendar days post-conviction progress reports set on
18 **January 5, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.
- 19 iv. The Court extends by 90 calendar days, unless statutorily required to be held sooner
20 and the defendant does not consent to a continuance, out-of-custody misdemeanor
21 pretrial hearings set on **January 5, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.

22 b. Juvenile Dependency

- 23 i. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 313 of the Welfare and
24 Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency
25 proceedings must be released from custody to not more than seven (7) days,
26 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire
27 from **January 1, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.

ii. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 315 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than seven (7) days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire from **January 1, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, OR UNTIL ITS PROVISIONS EXPIRE BY THEIR TERMS, ARE RESCINDED, AMENDED, OR ARE SUPERSEDED BY SUBSEQUENT ORDERS.

THIS ORDER MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFOR, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: January 14, 2022



Eric C. Taylor
ERIC C. TAYLOR
Presiding Judge