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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 4, 2022

PRESIDING JUDGE ERIC C. TAYLOR ISSUES GENERAL ORDER TO DELAY CRIMINAL TRIALS FOR TWO WEEKS AS LOS ANGELES COUNTY EXPERIENCES HOLIDAY SURGE FROM DELTA AND OMICRON VARIANTS

Civil Judges Urged to Continue Jury Trials in Consultation with Counsel

Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor today utilized the authority granted by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye under Government Code section 68115 to extend statutory deadlines for Criminal jury trials in which the original or previously extended statutory deadline otherwise would expire from January 5 to January 19, 2022, inclusive.

"I want to thank the Chief Justice for her continued support and recognition of the varying public health conditions in the counties around the state," Presiding Judge Taylor said. "Her order has given us the flexibility for our trial courts to balance access to justice with local public safety needs. Los Angeles County's current COVID numbers warrant this relief, and I have elected to utilize this authority sparingly as we closely monitor the impact of the dual variants on our court users, judicial officers, staff and justice partners. Meanwhile, we continue to urge everyone to take advantage of remote access to our court (<https://my.lacourt.org/laccwelcome>). The Court continues to prioritize public health and safety with the Court's measured approach to restoring and maintaining safe access to justice."

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JURY TRIALS

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The attached Order, 2022-GEN-001-00, will alleviate some of the foot traffic in LA County courthouses by reducing the number of jurors, witnesses, justice partners and members of the public during this 2-week pause of Criminal trials. Presiding Judge Taylor has not extended Criminal statutory deadlines since October as the Court worked to restore pre-pandemic levels of efficiency in Criminal courts.

“I will continue to consult closely with LA County Department of Public Health (LA DPH) officials on local conditions and any changes to public health orders and guidance during this winter surge,” Presiding Judge Taylor said. “For the second consecutive winter, holiday gatherings have fueled widespread community transmission.”

Over the New Year’s weekend, the Delta and Omicron variants resulted in almost 45,000 new recorded cases in LA County. Today, LA DPH reported more than 21,000 new cases.

As for Civil cases, the Court has urged judicial officers to continue to exercise their sound discretion – after discussion with the parties – on whether to now proceed with jury trials or elect to continue them while the county experiences a high level of virus transmission. In addition, the Court continues to ask bench officers to assure adherence to all mandated safety protocols, such as the face mask requirement, in all courthouses. Although the county has not presently mandated social distancing, Civil judges are urged to space people around their courtrooms as much as possible and determine if larger courtrooms are available for jury selection.

Presiding Judge Taylor also:

- Emphasized 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

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JURY TRIALS

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Court in advance of their court appearance or appointment. A list of ADA liaisons is available at <https://www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx>.

- Encouraged persons seeking services from the Clerk's Office, court support services, and/or the Self-Help Centers to schedule appointments and use the available online services. 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, lacourt.org.
- Reminded the public that anyone experiencing symptoms, who has been exposed to COVID-19, or tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, should not enter any courthouses. If you have tested positive or are experiencing symptoms, promptly call the courtroom and other parties to continue the hearing or trial.
- Urged everyone not to eat or drink in courthouse hallways.
- Asked attorneys and litigants not to meet and confer unnecessarily in hallways. He also asked that people who must come to courthouses not bring unnecessary companions.
- Emphasized the Court's vigilance in carefully monitoring local COVID trends and following all LA DPH Health Officer orders as well as state public health and CDC guidance.
- Reminded the public that the great majority of court employees, judicial officers and justice partners are fully vaccinated following successful efforts to prioritize vaccinations in early 2021 for justice system workers.

The Court will continue to work with its justice partners to provide safe and efficient access to justice, with health and safety remaining the highest shared priority.

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FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

JAN 04 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

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 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.

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

2 a. Criminal Division

- 3 i. The Court extends the time period provided in section 1382 of the Penal Code for
4 the holding of a criminal trial by not more than 30 days, applicable only to cases
5 in which the original or previously extended statutory deadline otherwise would
6 expire from **January 5, 2022 to January 19, 2022**, inclusive.
- 7 ii. The Court extends by 90 calendar days post-conviction progress reports set on
8 **January 5, 2022 to January 19, 2022**, inclusive.
- 9 iii. The Court extends by 90 calendar days, unless statutorily required to be held sooner
10 and the defendant does not consent to a continuance, out-of-custody misdemeanor
11 pretrial hearings set on **January 5, 2022 to January 19, 2022**, inclusive.

12
13 b. Juvenile Dependency

- 14 i. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 313 of the Welfare and
15 Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency
16 proceedings must be released from custody to not more than seven (7) days,
17 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire
18 from **January 1, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.
- 19 ii. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 315 of the Welfare and
20 Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency
21 proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than seven (7) days,
22 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire
23 from **January 1, 2022 to January 28, 2022**, inclusive.

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25 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT**
26 **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, OR UNTIL ITS PROVISIONS EXPIRE BY THEIR TERMS,**
27 **ARE RESCINDED, AMENDED, OR ARE SUPERSEDED BY SUBSEQUENT ORDERS.**
28 **THIS ORDER MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.**

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFOR, IT IS SO ORDERED.

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DATED: January 4, 2022



Eric C. Taylor
ERIC C. TAYLOR
Presiding Judge