

IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the Matter of:	)	Presiding Judge
	)	Administrative Order No. 21-09
<b>The Continuing Suspension of</b>	)	<b>Extending Suspension</b>
<b>Grand Jury in Utqiagvik</b>	)	
_____	)	

**ORDER CONTINUING SUSPENSION OF GRAND JURY IN UTQIAGVIK**

Utqiagvik continues to experience significantly high number of COVID-19 cases. The average daily case rate for the last 14 days per 100,000 residents of the borough is 294.6. The total number of cases over the last 7 days per 100,000 residents of the borough is 1,913.8<sup>1</sup>. The most recent hospital survey conducted by DHSS indicates 308 inpatient beds available across the state with 23 ICU beds available.<sup>2</sup> The local hospital does not provide an ICU unit. The 7-day test positivity rate is at 12.5 % with 541 tests given in the last week. The local hospitals COVID numbers, available at <https://arcticslope.org/press-release-urgent/>, show 211 active cases in the region.

Given the serious risk level, and pursuant to the authority granted to the Presiding Judge by Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8234, grand jury will continue to be suspended from September 24, 2021-September 30, 2021.<sup>3</sup> Rule 5 is tolled during this time.<sup>4</sup>

Dated at Kotzebue, Alaska this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.



PAUL A. ROETMAN  
Presiding Judge

Distribution:

2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Clerks of Court – for distribution to local agencies  
2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Judicial Officers  
Melissa Samuels, RCA  
Brodie Kimmel, ACA  
Stacey Marz, Administrative Director

<sup>1</sup> Alaska Covid-19 Information Hub <https://alaska-coronavirus-vaccine-outreach-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>

<sup>2</sup> AK Covid-19 Hospital Data Dashboard  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/f21f964c046c400baad4ad78e06ceb25/>

<sup>3</sup> Special Order of the Chief Justice No.8234 states, “The presiding judge may limit or suspend in-person grand jury proceedings for any district or location when required for public health or to comply with local health mandates.”

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to Supreme Court Order No. 1957